

Appendix B: Educational Survey Respondents Regional Analysis

Introduction

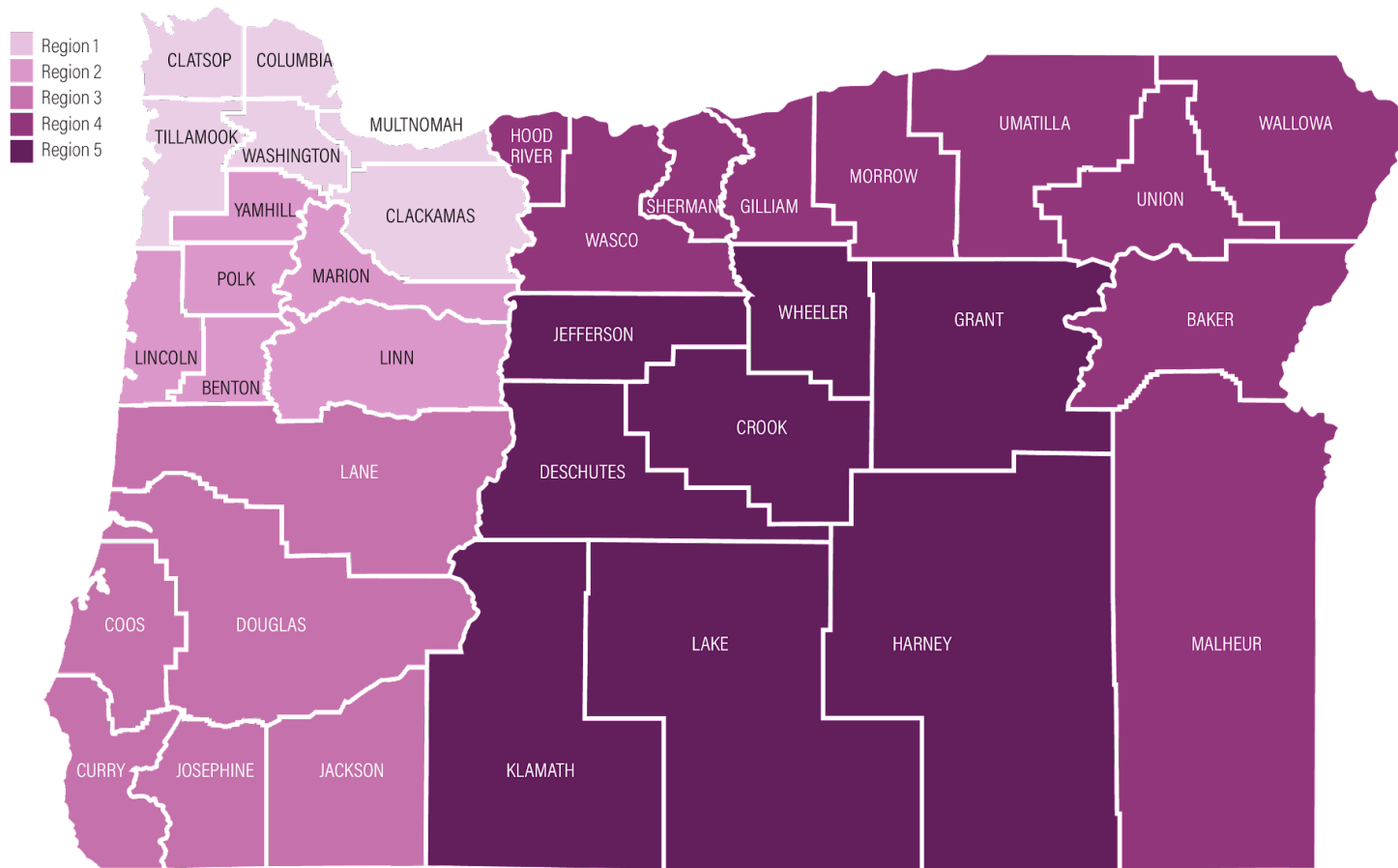
As part of quantitative data collection for this study of the public health response to COVID-19 in Oregon, tailored surveys were administered to Oregon Principals, Nurses, School District Superintendents (SDs), and Education Service Districts (ESDs). Detailed methods relating to survey development and data analysis can be found in [Appendix G in Report 2](#). The majority of findings from educational informant data were presented in [Report 2](#). As part of the survey, respondents were asked to identify which region(s) they provided services in during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow for data analysis by region(s) served. The regions used as part of this study were adapted from the Oregon state emergency response regions¹ and re-numbered for ease of use in the report.

The below findings are based upon an analysis of educational survey respondent data by region served. Unfortunately, small sample sizes did not allow for regional data analysis of all educational survey respondent informant groups. Consequently, School Nurse and ESD data were excluded from this analysis. For SD survey data, Region 5 was suppressed due to low sample sizes. When interpreting the findings presented below, it is important to note that the sample sizes for the educational survey respondents included in regional analysis are not large enough to draw generalizations for each region. Rather, regional data is presented below to examine how the COVID-19 response varied across regions.

	Educational Informant Survey Respondent Group	
Region	Principals	SD
Region 1	59 (35%)	16 (23%)
Region 2	31 (18%)	20 (28%)
Region 3	33 (19%)	14 (20%)
Region 4	28 (16%)	11 (15%)
Region 5	20 (12%)	Suppressed due to fewer than 10 respondents

*Sample sizes may change depending on the question due to attrition of survey respondents and are indicated in all figures.

¹ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preparedness/partners/pages/regional-support.aspx>



Regional Comparison

Emergency preparedness

Individual preparedness

Educational survey respondents were asked to evaluate their own level of preparedness in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 1 shows SDs' perceived evaluation of their preparedness in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost all of the SDs in Region 1 (81.3%, n=13) and Region 3 (78.6%, n=11) reported that they were minimally or not at all prepared for the pandemic compared to SDs in Region 2 (55.0%, n=11) and Region 4 (54.6%, n=6). Principals serving Region 1 (50.8%, n=30), Region 2 (41.9%, n=13), Region 3 (57.6%, n=19), and Region 5 (45.0%, n=9) more frequently reported they felt minimally prepared for the pandemic (Figure 2). Of all Regions, Principals serving Region 4 (42.9%, n=12) more frequently reported they felt not at all prepared for the pandemic. One-quarter or fewer Principals in Regions 1 (25.4%, n=15), Region 2 (22.6%, n=7), Region 3 (18.2%, n=6), and Region 5 (25.0%, n=5) reported that they were not at all prepared for the pandemic.

Figure 1: SD Survey Respondents: Individual level of preparedness by regions served

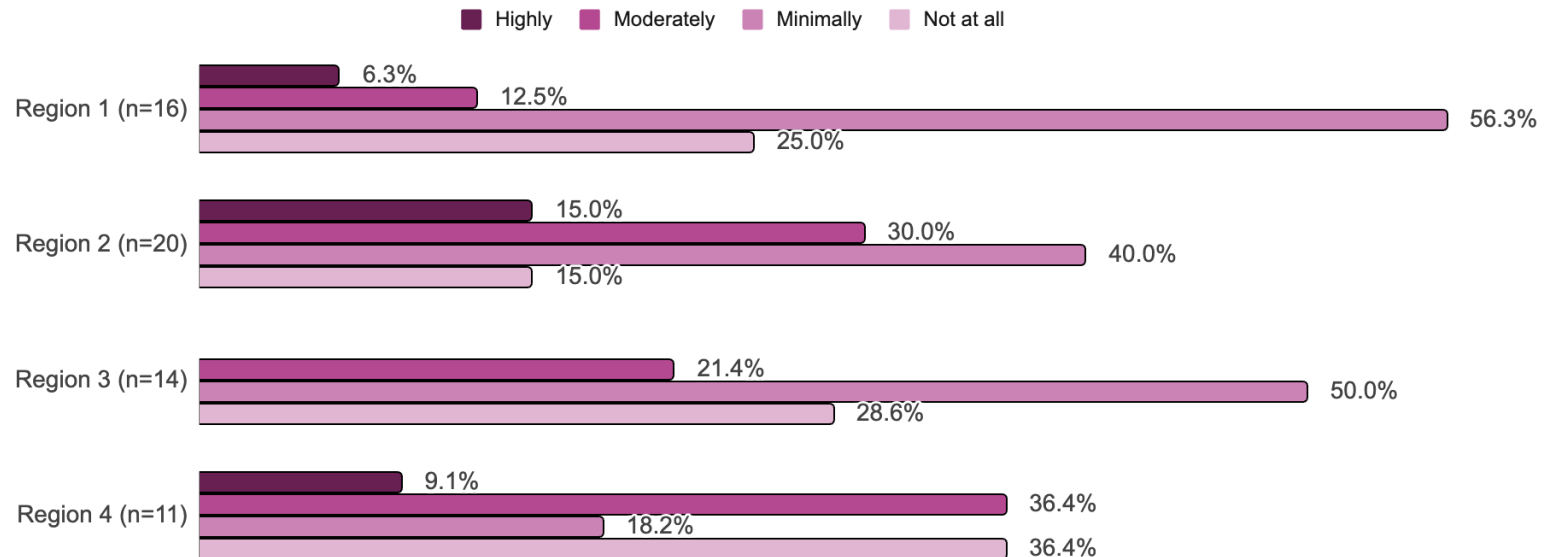
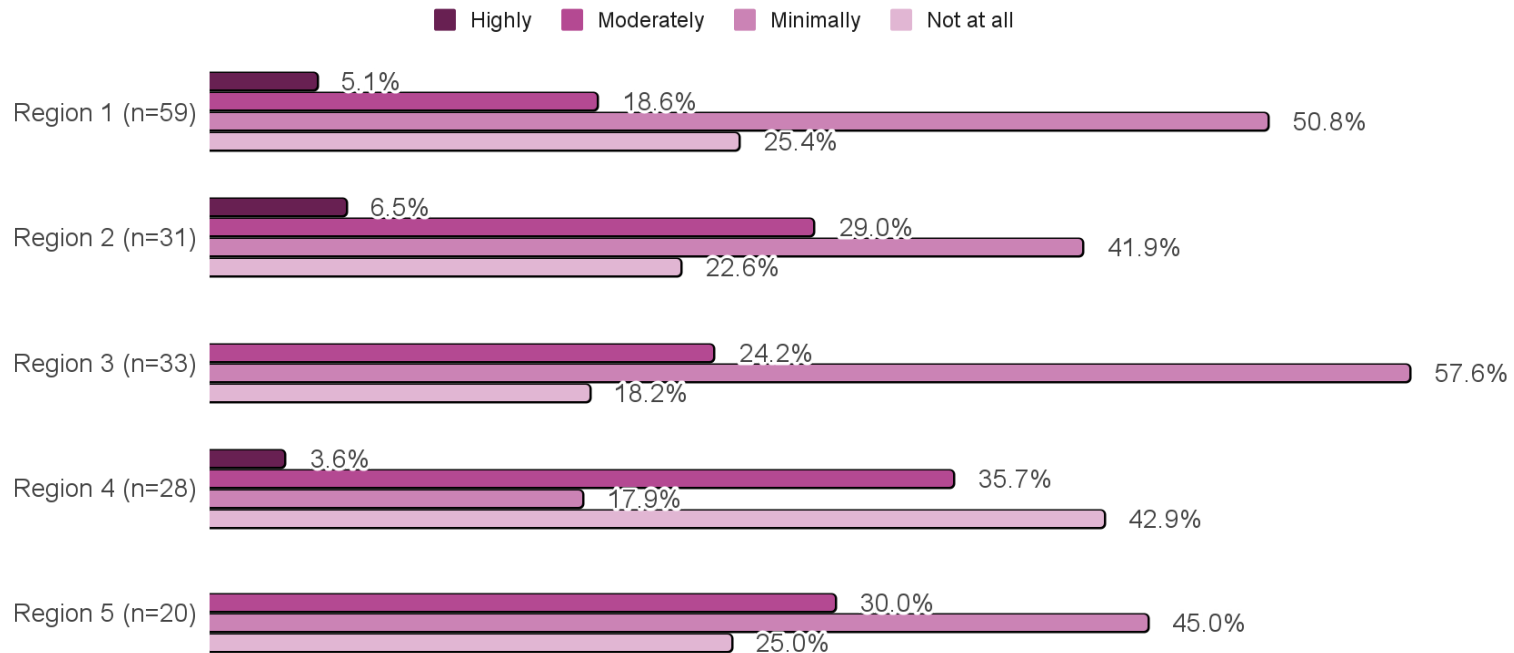


Figure 2: Principal Survey Respondents: Individual level of preparedness by regions served



School/district preparedness

Educational survey respondents were also asked to evaluate the school or district level of preparedness in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. SDs in Region 2 (45.0%, n=9) and Region 4 (45.5%, n=5) more frequently reported that they were highly prepared as a district compared to the other regions for the pandemic (Figure 3). However, almost half of the SDs in Region 3 (42.9%, n=6) more frequently reported that they were minimally prepared as a district compared to the other regions for the pandemic.

Principals in Region 1 (50.8%, n=30), Region 3 (51.5%, n=17), and Region 5 (45.0%, n=9) more frequently reported that they were minimally prepared as a school than Region 2 (25.8%, n=8) and Region 4 (21.4%, n=6) for the pandemic (Figure 4). However,

Principals in Region 2 (45.2%, n=14) and Region 4 (46.4%, n=13) more frequently reported that they were moderately prepared as a school compared to the other regions for the pandemic.

Figure 3: SD Survey Respondents: District level of preparedness by regions served

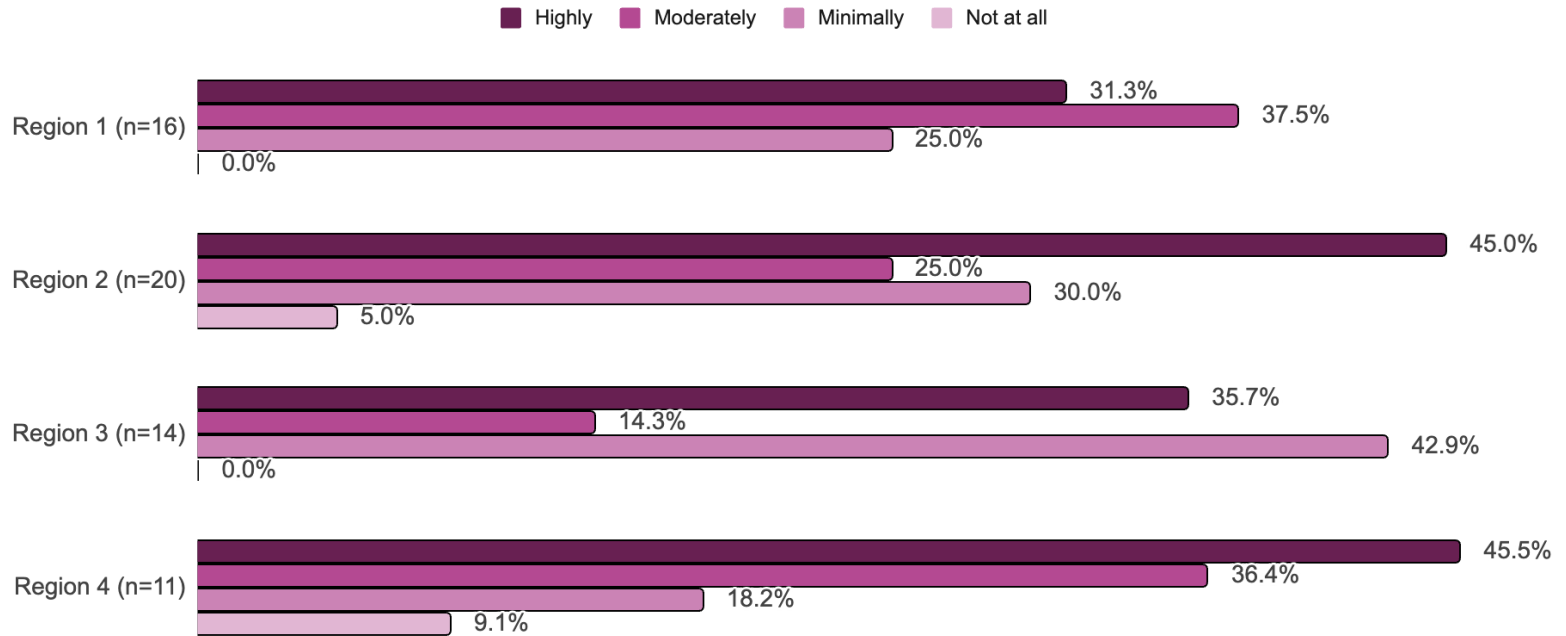
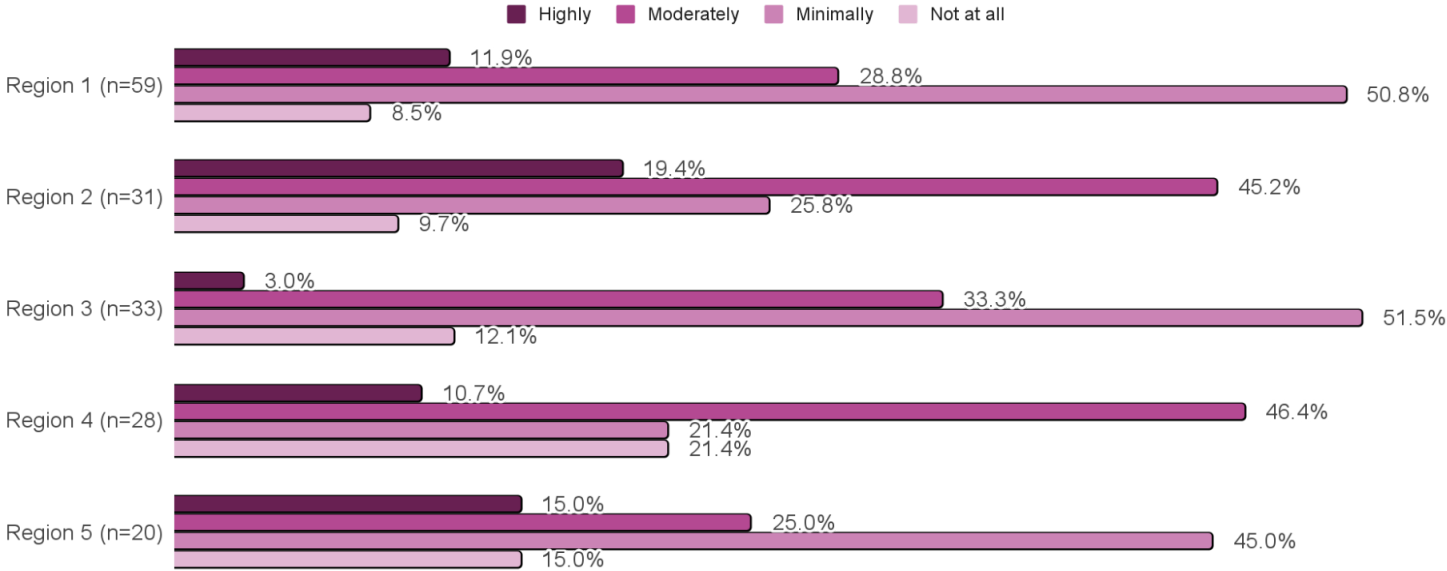


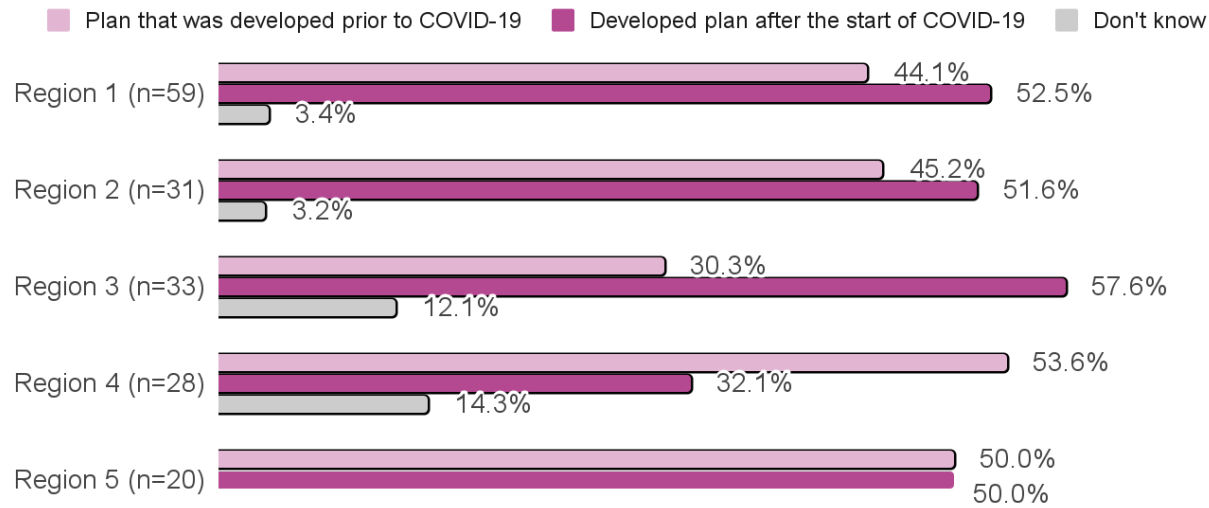
Figure 4: Principal Survey Respondents: School level of preparedness by regions served



Emergency Operations Plan at schools

Principal survey respondents were asked about their knowledge of an Emergency Operations Plan at their school. More than half of the Principals in Regions 1 (52.5%, n=31), Region 2 (51.6%, n=16), and Region 3 (57.6%, n=19) reported that they developed a plan after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 5). However, more than half of the Principals in Region 4 (53.6%, n=15) reported that they had a plan that was developed or updated prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the other regions. Ten (10) Principals in Region 5 reported that they had a plan that was developed or updated prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and ten (10) Principals in Region 5 reported that they developed a plan after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

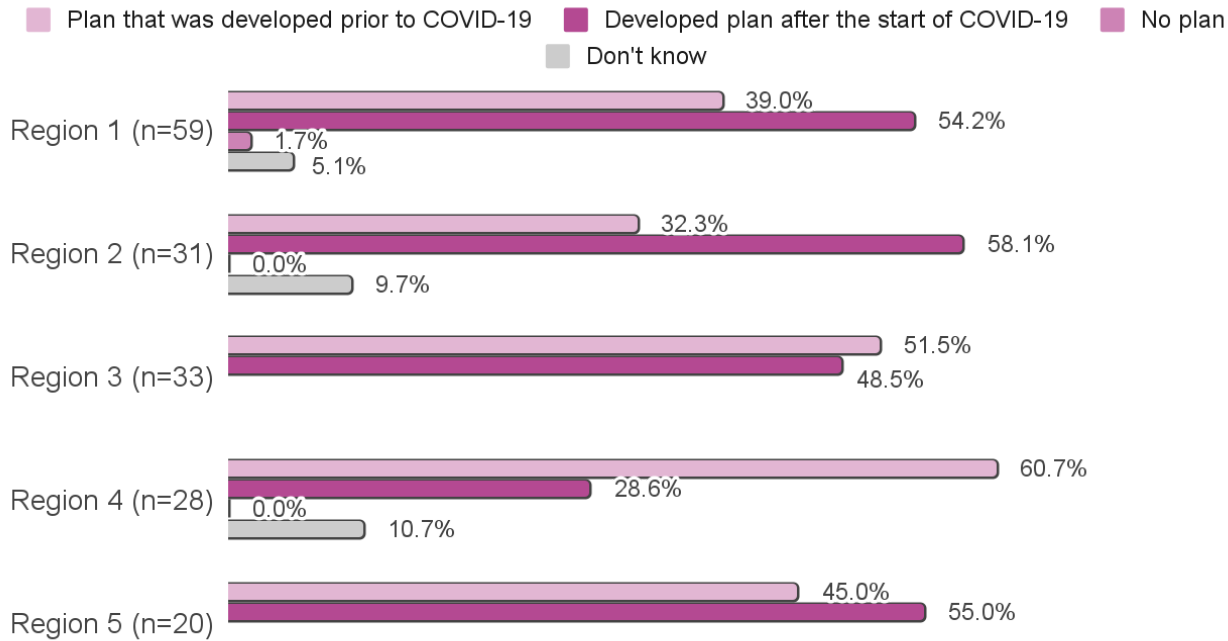
Figure 5: Principal Survey Respondent: Existence of Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) at schools by regions served



Communicable Disease Management Plan at schools

Principal survey respondents were asked to describe the existence of a Communicable Disease Management Plan at their school. More than half of the Principals in Region 1 (54.2%, n=32), Region 2 (58.1%, n=18), and Region 5 (55.0%, n=11) reported that they developed a plan after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the other regions (Figure 6). However, more than half of the Principals in Region 3 (51.5%, n=17) and Region 4 (60.7%, n=17) reported that they developed or updated a plan prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the other regions.

Figure 6: Principal Survey Respondents: Existence of Communicable Management Plan at schools by regions served



Preparedness for distance learning

Educational survey respondents were asked how prepared their schools or districts were to transition to distance learning. In Region 1, the same number of SDs who reported that their district was moderately prepared or minimally prepared (31.3%, n=5) to transition to distance learning (Figure 7). Also, SDs in Region 2 was the only region that more frequently reported that their district was moderately prepared to transition to distance learning (40.0%, n=8) compared to the other regions. SDs in Region 3 (42.9%, n=6) and Region 4 (54.5%, n=6) more frequently reported that they were minimally prepared to transition to distance learning as a district than the other regions. Principals in Region 1 (35.6%, n=21), Region 2 (38.7%, n=12), Region 3 (36.4%, n=12), and Region 5 (65.0%, n=13) more frequently reported they felt were minimally prepared to transition to distance learning compared to Region 4 (32.1%, n=9) as a school (Figure 8).

Figure 7: SD Survey Respondents: District transition to distance learning by regions served

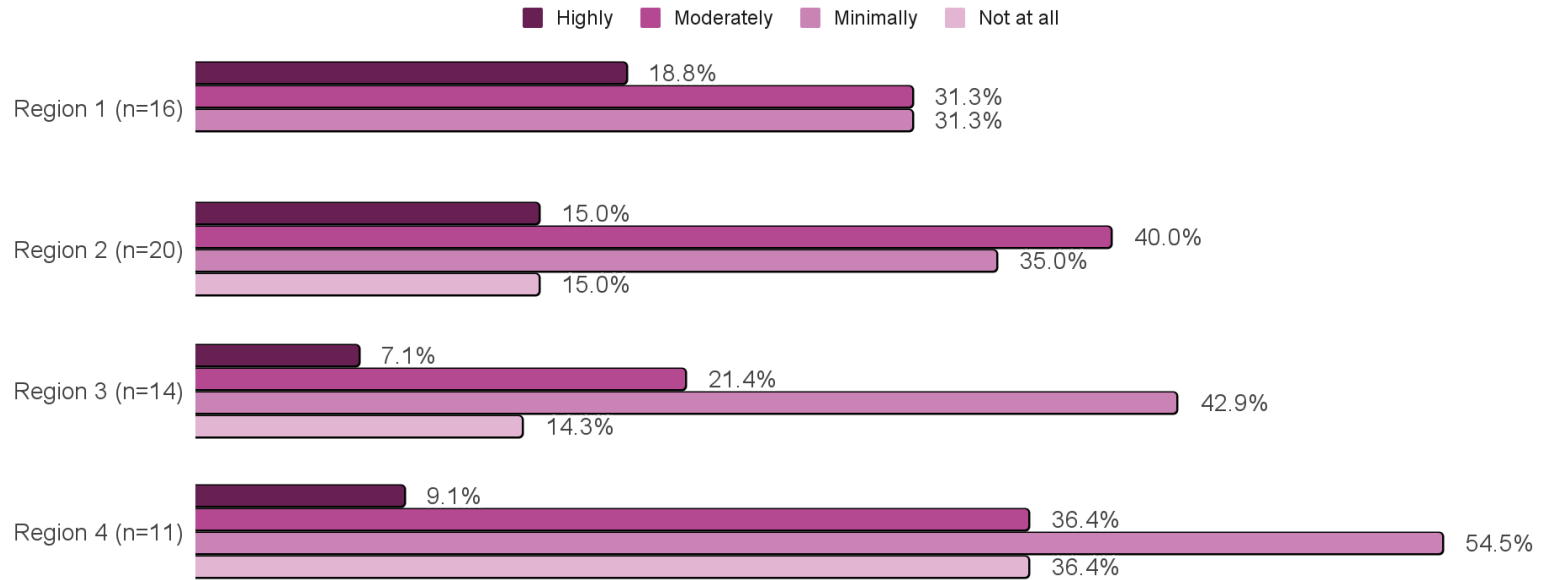
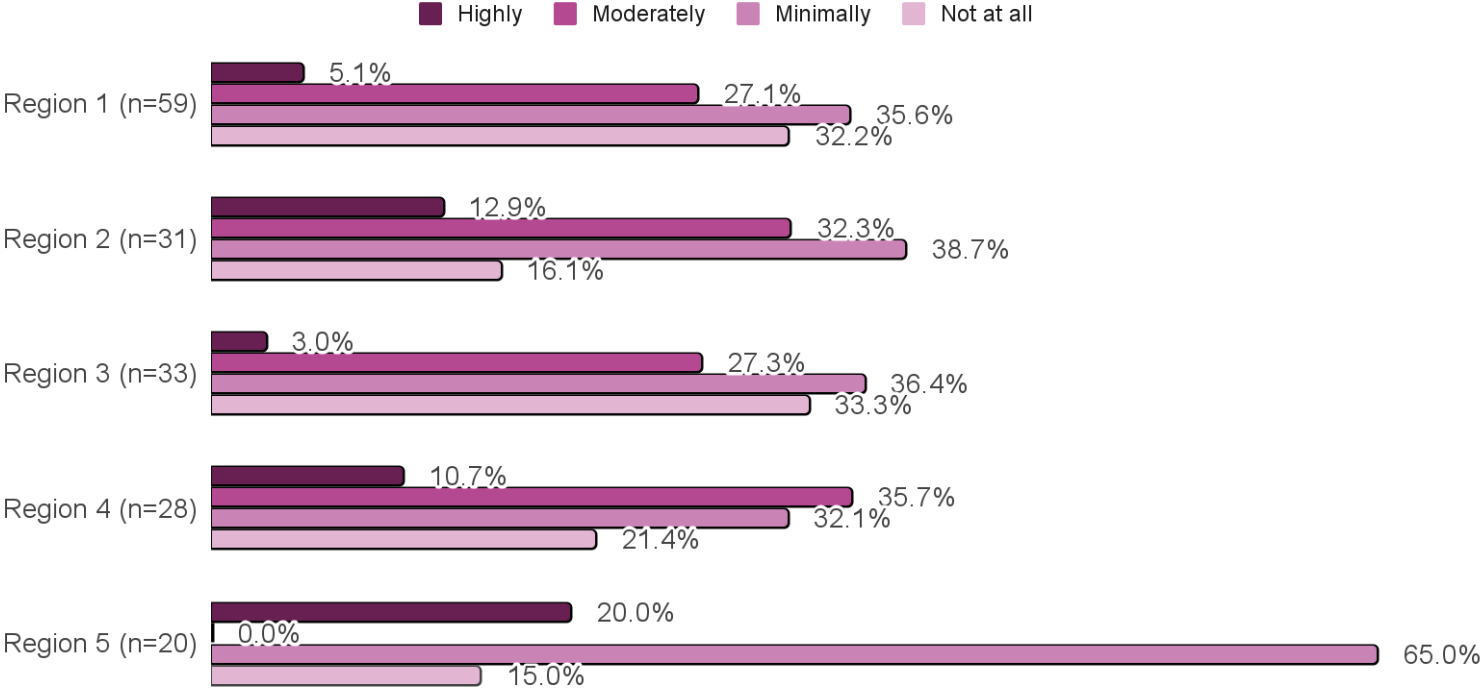
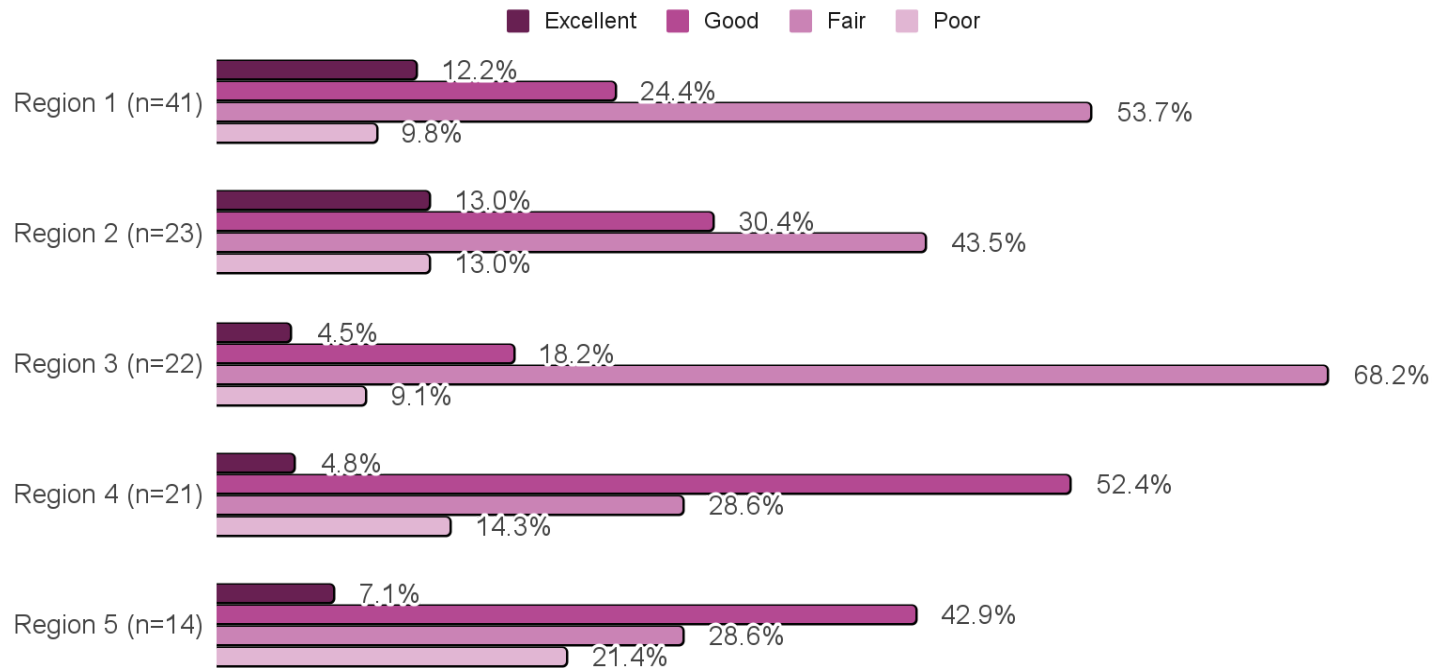


Figure 8: Principal Survey Respondents: School transition to distance learning by regions served



Principal survey respondents were also asked to reflect on how effective their school was in their delivery of distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Principals in Region 4 (52.4%, n=11) and Region 5 (42.9%, n=6) more frequently reported that their school was good at delivering distance learning than the other regions (Figure 9). However, Principals in Region 1 (53.7%, n=22), Region 2 (43.5%, n=10), and Region 3 (68.2%, n=15) more frequently evaluated their school as fair in delivering distance learning than the other regions.

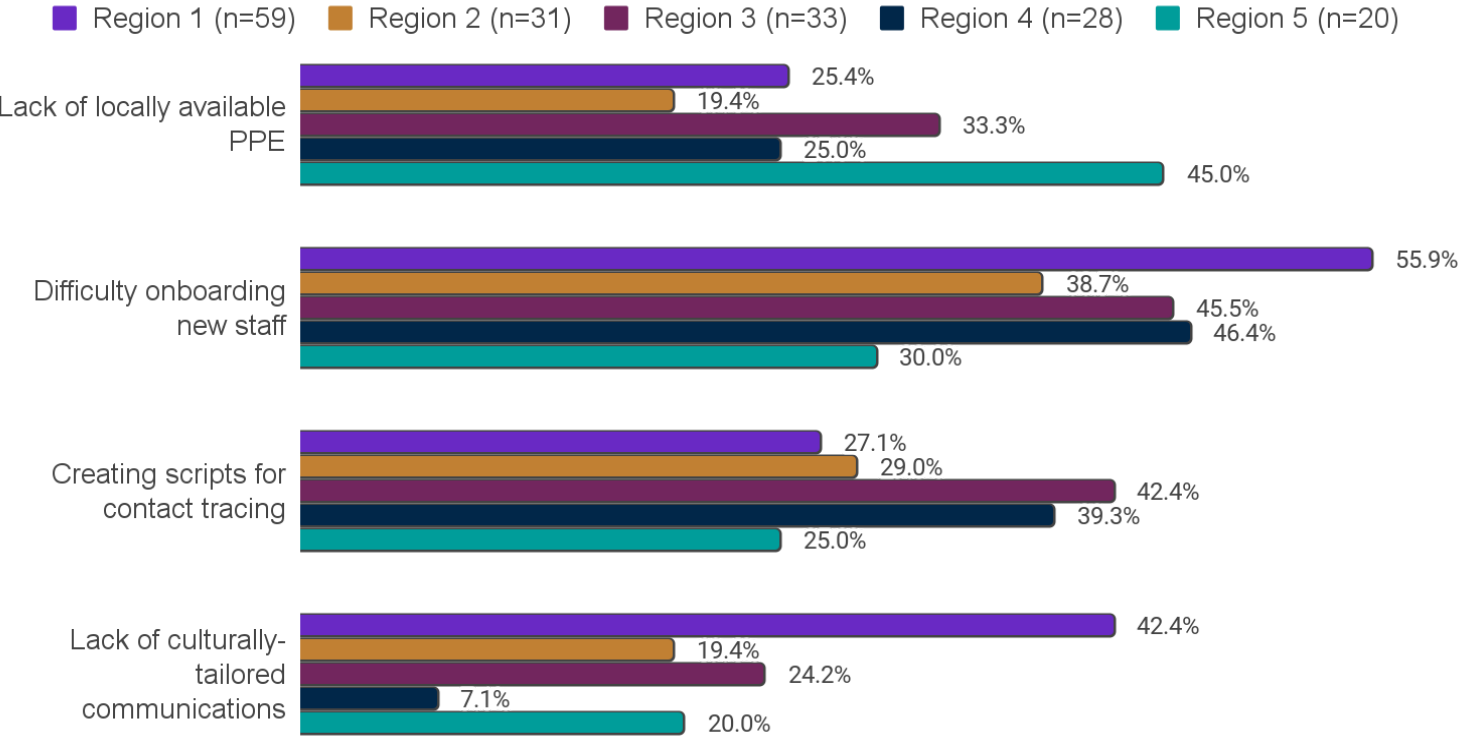
Figure 9: Principal Survey Respondents: Evaluation of the effectiveness of school's delivery of distance learning



Barriers to COVID-19 response

Principal survey respondents were asked to select the challenges that hindered the effectiveness, scale, or quality of their school's COVID-19 pandemic response. SDs were not asked this question. Difficulty onboarding new staff was the barrier most frequently reported by Principals serving Region 1 (55.9%, n=33), Region 2 (38.7%, n=12), Region 3 (45.5%, n=15), and Region 4 (46.4%, n=13) (Figure 10). The barrier most frequently reported by Principals in Region 5 was a lack of locally available Personal Protective Equipment (45.0%, n=9).

Figure 10: Principal Survey Respondents: Barriers not related to funding experienced by school during COVID-19 pandemic response



Public health requirements

Policies adopted

Educational survey respondents were asked if their school or district adopted any public health requirements to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. The top policies adopted across SDs in all regions were masking in public spaces/workplaces and isolation and quarantine rules (Figure 11). The least adopted policy across all regions was to prohibit indoor dining, with 64.3% (n=14) of SDs in Region 1, 40.0% (n=17) of SDs in Region 2, 71.4% (n=14) of SDs in Region 3, and 40.0% (n=8) of SDs in Region 4. The most frequently reported number of Principals across all regions reported adopting masking in public spaces/workplaces, with 100% (n=45) of Principals in Region 1, 100% (n=25) of Principals in Region 2, 100% (n=22) of Principals in Region 3, 100% (n=22) of Principals in Region 4, and 92.9% (n=14) of Principals in Region 5 (Figure 12). The least adopted policy across all regions was to prohibit indoor dining, with 62.2% (n=28) of Principals in Region 1, 56.0% (n=14) of Principals in Region 2, 45.5% (n=10) of Principals in Region 3, 63.6% (n=14) of Principals in Region 4, and 42.9% (n=6) of Principals in Region 5.

Figure 11: SD Survey Respondents: Public health requirements adopted in districts by regions served

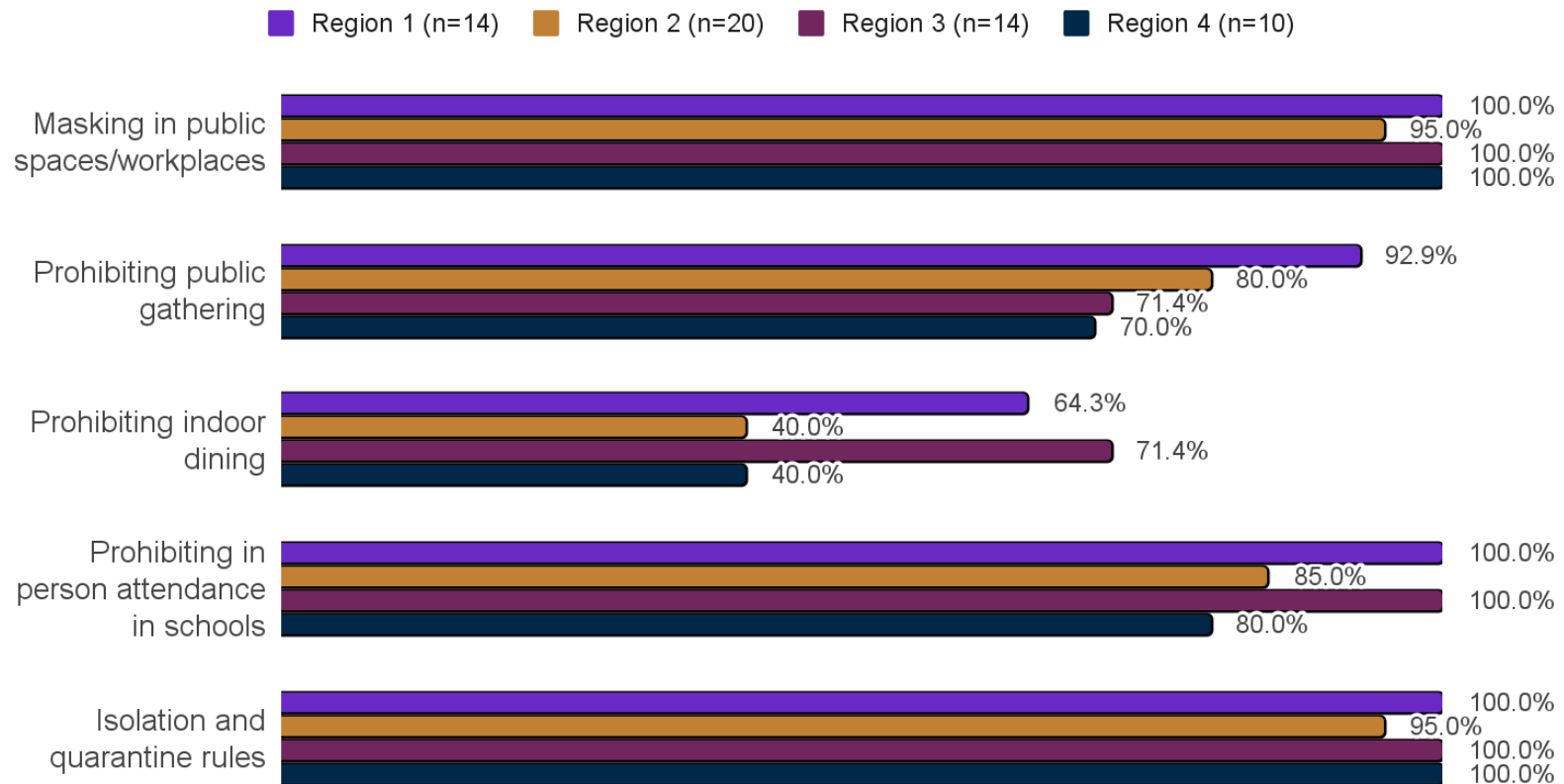
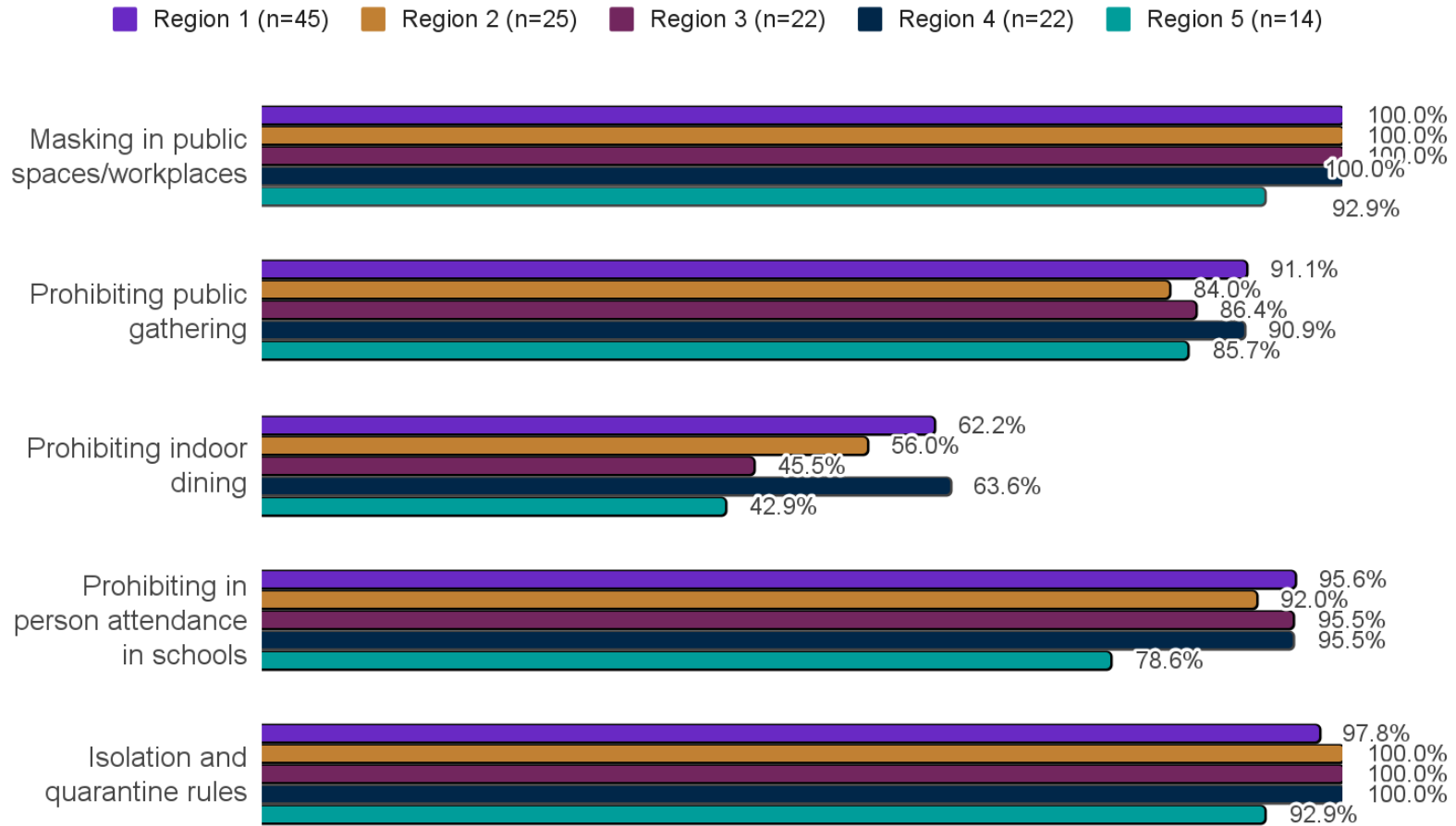


Figure 12: Principal Survey Respondents: Public health requirements adopted in schools by regions served



Enforcement of school policies

Principal survey respondents were asked if they enforced any of their school's implemented public health policies. The majority of the Principals in every region enforced their school policies, with prohibiting indoor dining the least enforced in Region 1 (57.8%, n=26), Region 2 (56.0%, n=14), Region 3 (45.5%, n=10), Region 4 (59.1%, n=13), and Region 5 (57.1%, n=8) (Figure 13).

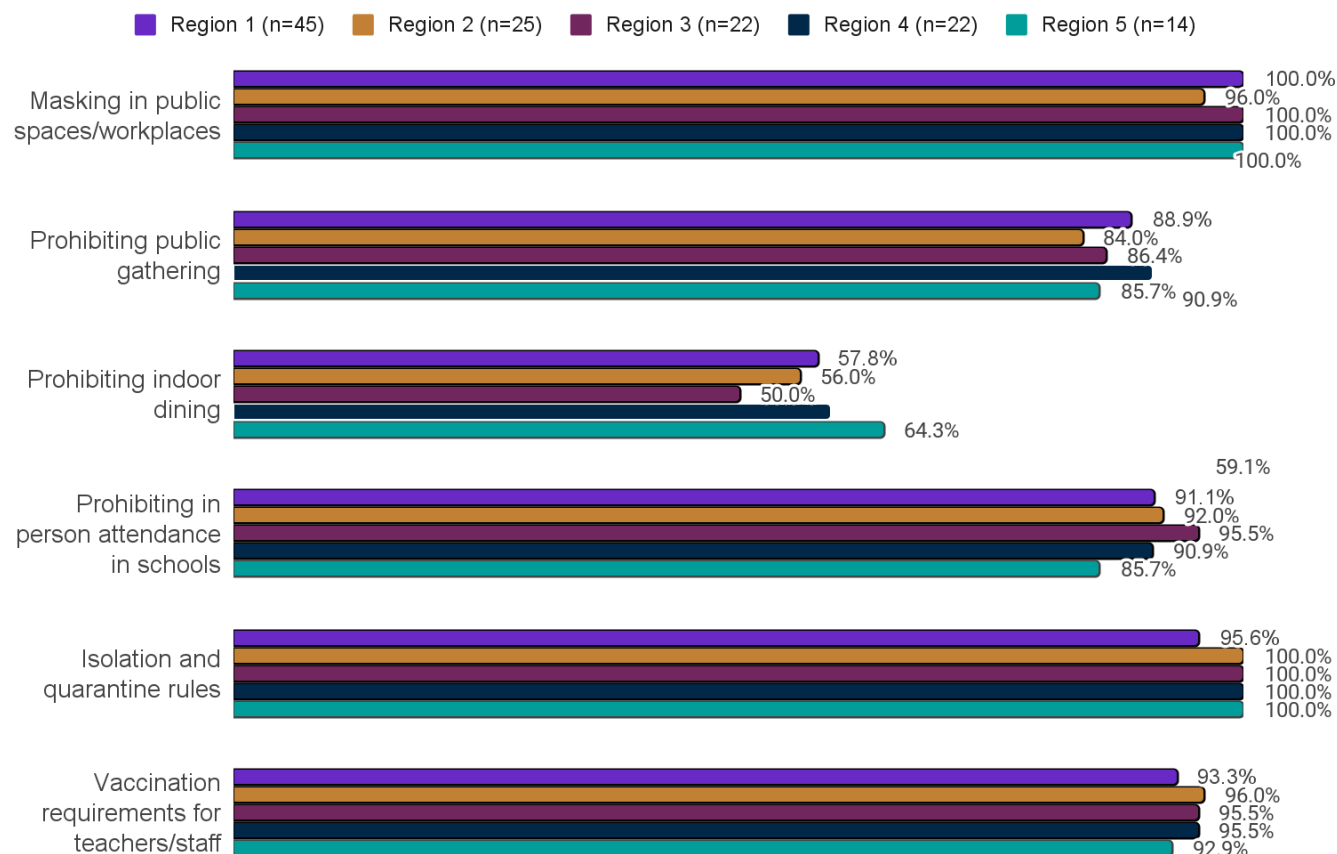
Figure 13: Principal Survey Respondent: Enforcement of school implemented public health requirements by regions served



Enforcement of government policies

Principal survey respondents were also asked if they enforced any of the public health requirements enacted by the state or local government. The majority of Principals in every region enforced government policies, with prohibiting indoor dining the least enforced by Region 1 (57.8%, n=26), Region 2 (56.0%, n=14), Region 3 (50.0%, n=11), Region 4 (59.1%, n=13), and Region 5 (64.3%, n=9) (Figure 14).

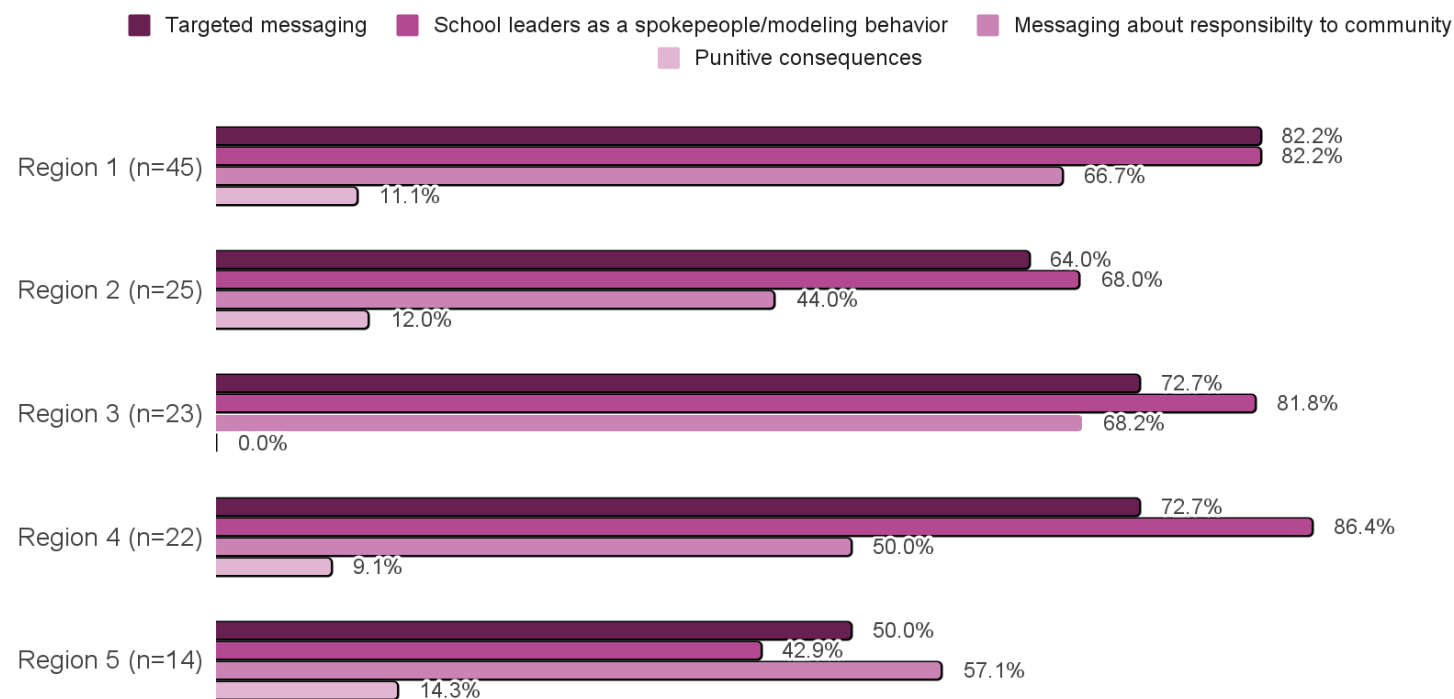
Figure 14: Principal Survey Respondents: Enforcement of government implemented public health requirements by regions served



Enforcement strategies

Educational survey respondents were also asked to identify the most effective strategies for enforcing public health mandates. Targeted messaging for students and teachers and school leaders as spokespeople or modeling behavior were the top two strategies for enforcement of public health requirements by Principals in all the regions, except for Region 5 (Figure 15). School leaders as spokespeople or modeling behavior was the most frequently reported strategy for enforcement of public health requirements by Principals in Region 1 (82.2%, n=37), Region 2 (68.0%, n=17), Region 3 (81.8%, n=18), and Region 4 (86.4%, n=19) compared to less than half of the Principals in Region 5 (42.9%, n=6). The least effective strategy reported by Principals in all regions was punitive consequences, such as detention or silent lunch.

Figure 15: Principal Survey Respondents: Most effective strategies for enforcement of public health requirements by regions served

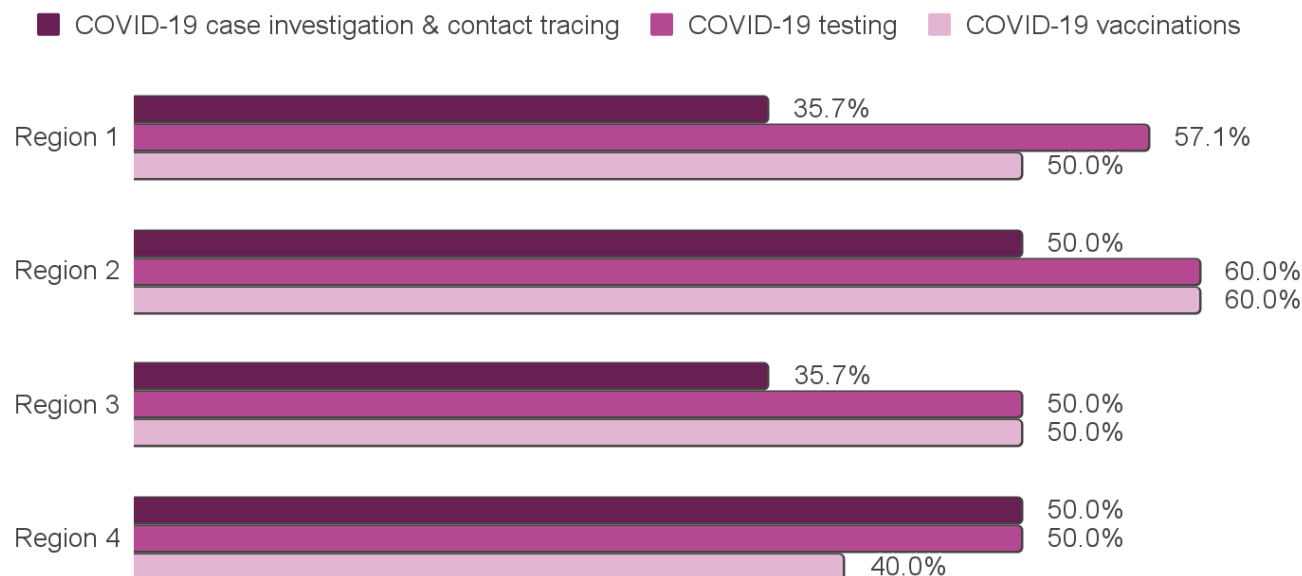


Funding overview

Survey respondents were asked to evaluate whether or not their school or district received adequate funding for three COVID-19 response activities: COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing; COVID-19 testing (e.g., planning, set-up, communications, running testing sites); and COVID-19 vaccination (e.g., planning, set-up, communications, running vaccination sites). Below is an overview of regional differences in response to these questions; for more detail about COVID-19 activities within each Region, please see the Funding sections for each Region in this report.

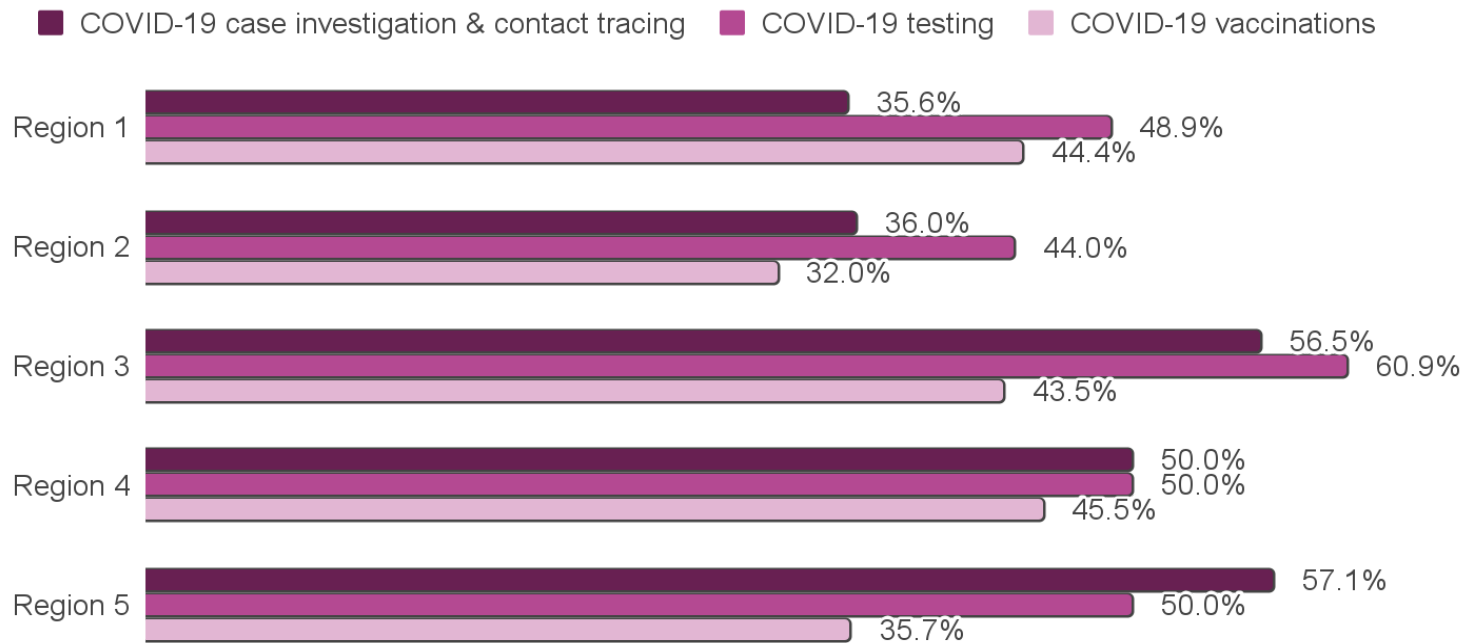
Exactly half of SDs from Region 2 (50.0%, n=10) and Region 4 (50.0%, n=5) reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that they had adequate funding for case investigation and contract tracing compared to a little over one-third of SDs from Region 1 (35.7%, n=5) and Region 3 (35.7%, n=5) (Figure 16). Between 50.0 - 60.0% of SD respondents reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that they had enough funding for COVID-19 testing. Between 40.0 - 60.0% of SD respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had enough funding for COVID-19 vaccinations, depending on the region; Region 4 (40.0%, n=5) respondents were least frequently to be in agreement and Region 2 (60.0%, n=12) respondents frequently agreed.

Figure 16: SD Respondents: Percent who agreed or strongly agreed their district received adequate funding for COVID-19 response activities



Regional differences among Principal respondents were somewhat different than the regional differences among SD respondents. Principal respondents from Region 3 (56.5%, n=13), Region 4 (50.0%, n=11), and Region 5 (57.1%, n=8) more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they had adequate funding for case investigation and contact tracing compared to Principals from Region 1 (35.5%, n=16) and Region 2 (36.0%, n=9) (Figure 17). There was similar percentages of Principals for COVID-19 testing, ranging between 48.9 - 60.9% of Principals reporting that they agreed or strongly agreed that they had adequate funding for testing, depending on the region; Region 1 respondents (48.8%, n=22) were least frequently to be in agreement and Region 3 respondents (60.9%, n=14) were most likely to agree. Across regions, there was similar percentages of Principals when asked about COVID-19 vaccinations, ranging between 32.0 - 45.5% of Principals reporting that they agreed or strongly agreed that they had adequate funding for testing, depending on the region; Region 2 respondents (32.0%, n=8) were least likely to be in agreement and Region 3 respondents (45.5%, n=5) were most likely to agree.

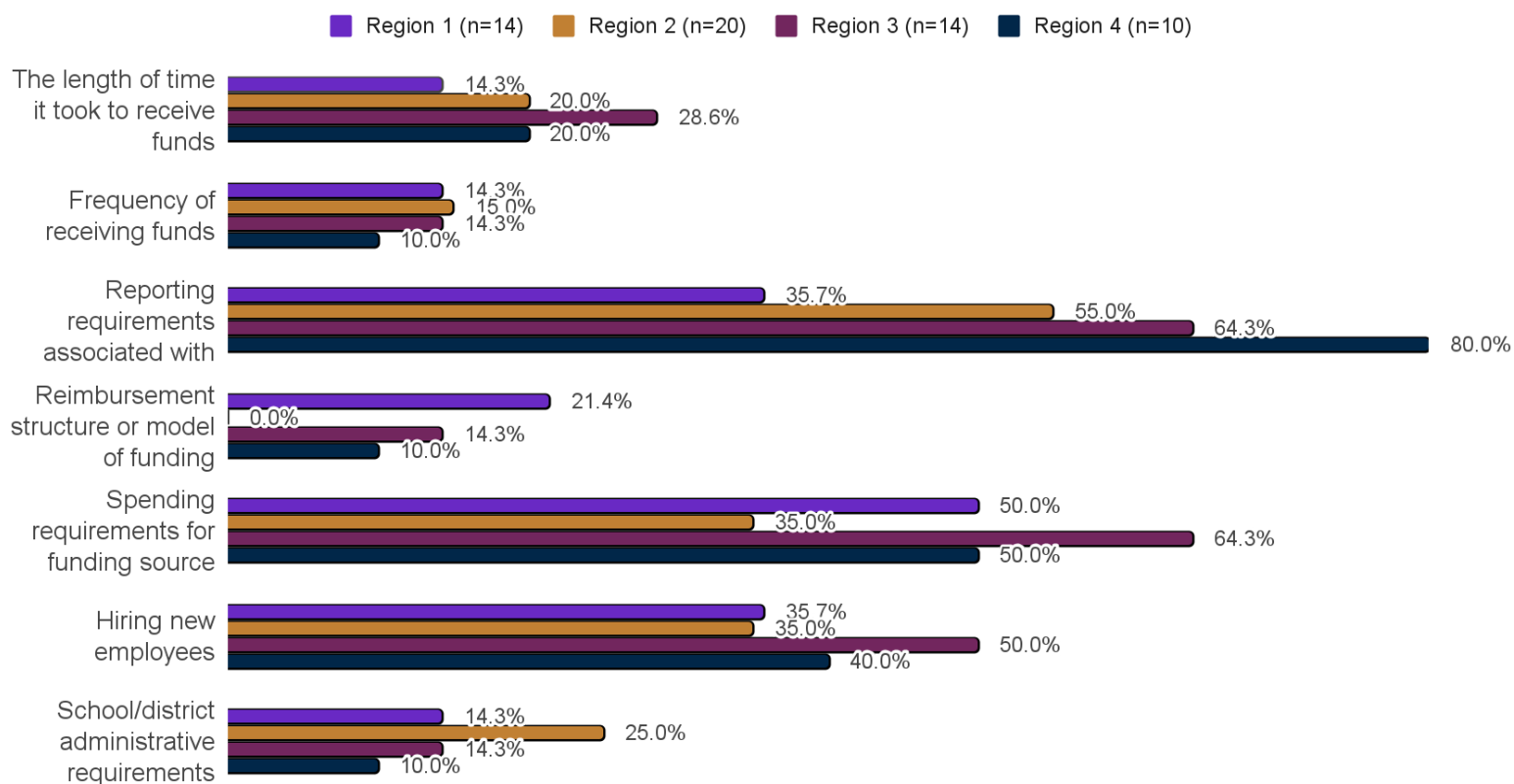
Figure 17: Principal Respondents: Percent who agreed or strongly agreed their school received adequate funding for COVID-19 response activities



Barriers to use of funding

Educational survey respondents reported barriers to efficient use of COVID-19 funds by regions served. The most frequently reported barrier experienced by SDs in all the regions, except for Region 1, was reporting requirements associated with the funding source (Figure 18). Half of the SDs in Region 1 (n=7) reported that spending requirements for funding source was a barrier to efficient use of funds.

Figure 18: SD Survey Respondents: Barriers to efficient use of funds by regions served



Hiring new employees was the most frequently reported barrier experienced by Principals in Region 1 (42.2%, n=19) and Region 2 (28.0%, n=7) compared to Principals in Region 3 (17.4%, n=4), Region 4 (22.7%, n=5), and Region 5 (7.1%, n=1) (Figure 19). Principals in Region 4 and Region 5 experienced two top barriers to efficient use of funds. Reporting requirements associated with the funding source and spending requirements for funding source experienced by Principals in Region 4 (36.4%, n=8). Length of time it took to receive funds and spending requirements for funding source experienced by Principals in Region 5 (21.4%, n=3).

Figure 19: Principal Survey Respondents: Barriers to efficient use of funds by regions served



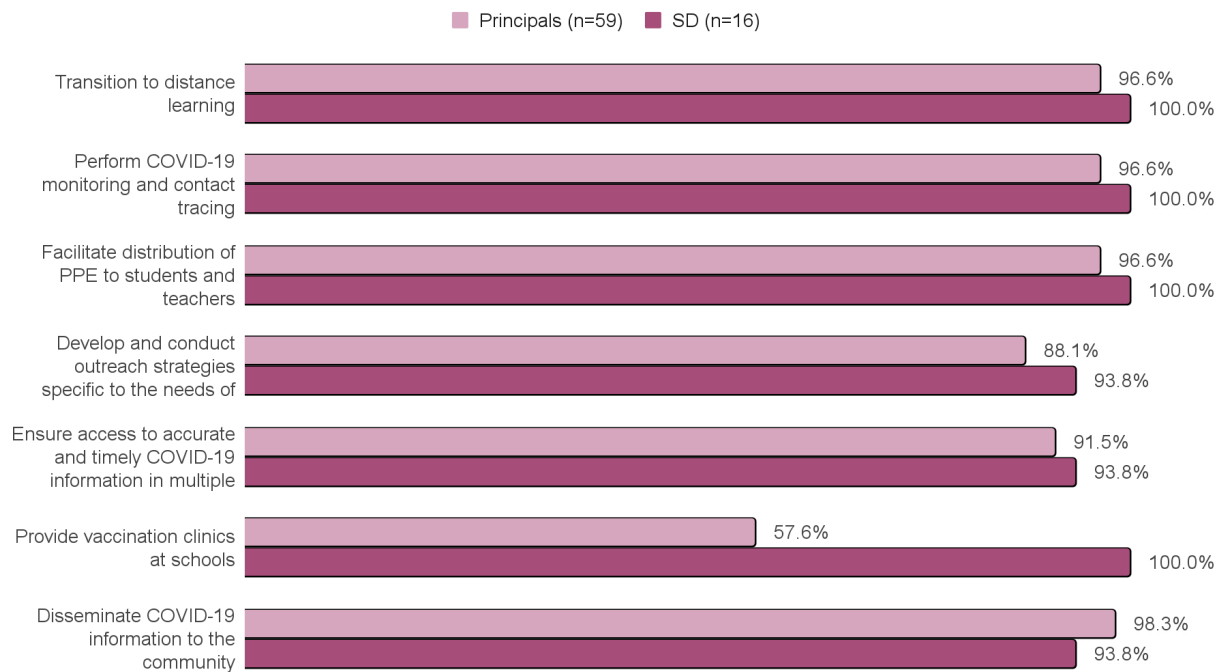
Region 1

COVID-19 Response Activities

Overall Response

Educational survey respondents in Region 1 shared ways that their school or district responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were similar percentages by survey respondent except for those that provided vaccination clinics at their schools. All SDs in Region 1 (100%, n=16) and more than half of the Principals in Region 1 (57.6%, n=34) held vaccine clinics at their school (Figure 20).

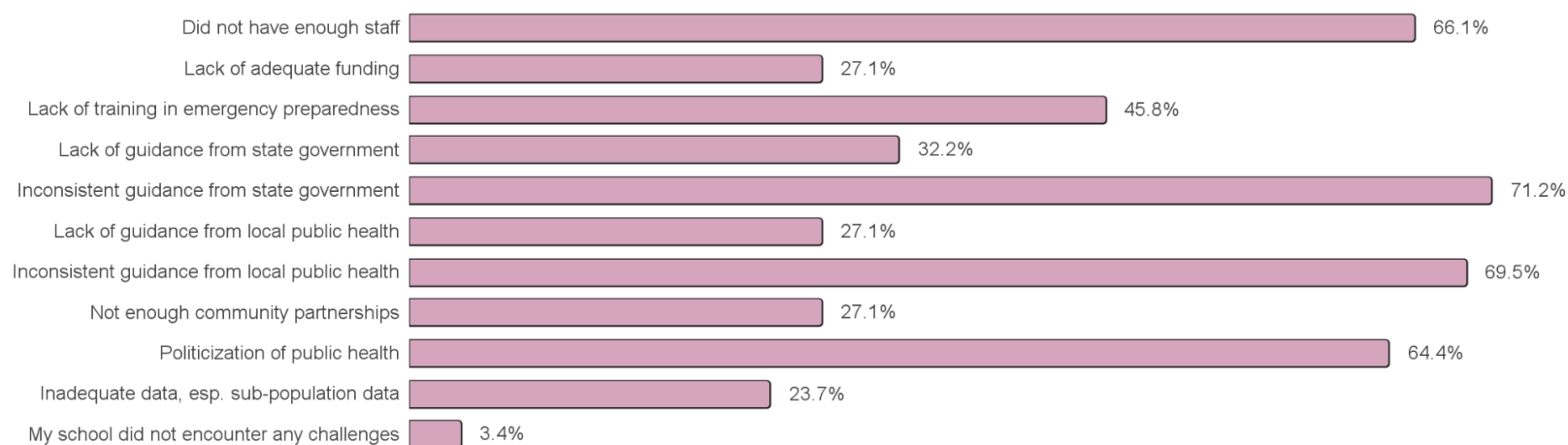
Figure 20: Region 1: Ways that schools/districts responded to COVID-19 pandemic by survey respondent



Challenges and Barriers to COVID-19 response

Principal survey respondents in Region 1 were asked to select the challenges that hindered the effectiveness, scale, or quality of their school's COVID-19 pandemic response. The top three challenges Principals in Region 1 reported were inconsistent guidance from state government (71.2%, n=42), inconsistent guidance from local public (69.5%, n=41), and did not have enough staff (66.1%, n=39) (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Region 1: Challenges that hindered COVID-19 pandemic response in schools by Principals (N=59)



Principal survey respondents in Region 1 were asked to select the barriers that their school experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. These barriers are not related to funding. The top barrier reported by Principals in Region 1 (55.9%, n=33) was difficulty onboarding new staff and the second top barrier was a lack of culturally-tailored communications (42.4%, n=25) (Figure 22).

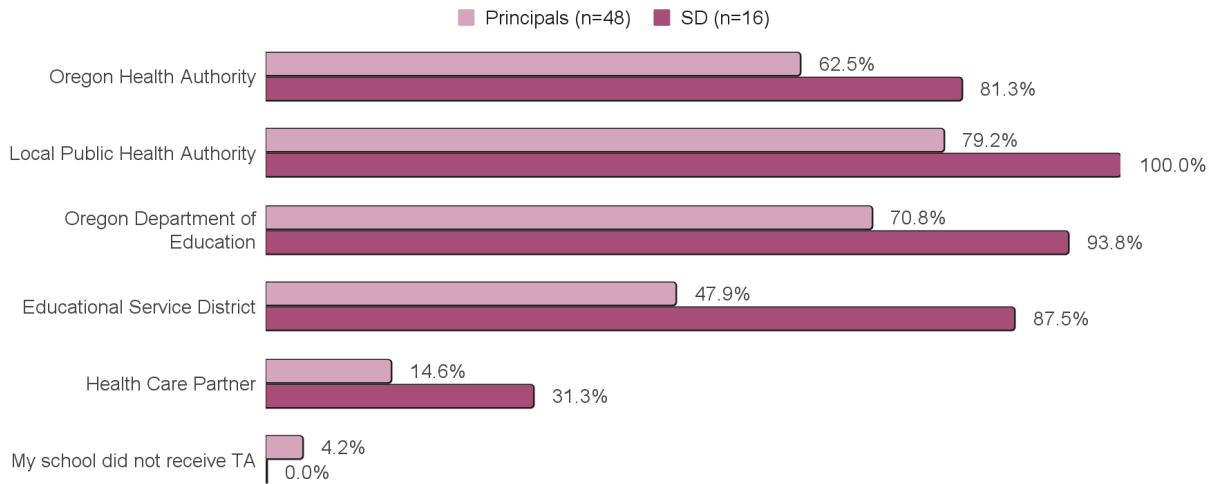
Figure 22: Region 1: Barriers not related to funding during COVID-19 pandemic response experienced by Principals (N=59)



Technical Assistance

Educational survey respondents in Region 1 were asked about the agencies or organizations in which their school or district received technical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The top three agencies or organizations that SDs in Region 1 received technical assistance from were the Local Public Health Authority (100.0%, n=16), the Oregon Department of Education (93.8%, n=15), and the Educational Service District (87.5%, n=14) (Figure 23). The top three agencies or organizations that Principals in Region 1 received technical assistance from were the Local Public Health Authority (79.2%, n=38), the Oregon Department of Education (70.8%, n=34), and the Oregon Health Authority (62.5%, n=30).

Figure 23: Region 1: Agencies schools received technical assistance from to support COVID-19 pandemic response by survey respondent



Funding

Adequate funding

Educational survey respondents in Region 1 were asked if they received adequate funding for a variety of COVID-19 response activities in their schools or districts; case investigation and contact tracing, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 vaccinations. All survey respondents reported that they did provide case investigation and contact tracing, two (2) Principals in Region 1 reported that they did not provide testing at their school, and seven (7) Principals in Region 1 reported that they did not provide vaccinations at their school.

The same number of SDs in Region 1 reported that they agreed or strongly agreed and disagreed or strongly disagreed (35.7%, n=5) Principals in Region 1 more frequently disagreed or strongly disagreed that they received adequate funding for case investigation and contact tracing (42.2%, n=19) than they agreed or strongly agreed (Figure 24). SDs (57.2%, n=8) and Principals (48.9%, n=22) in Region 1 more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they received adequate funding for COVID-19 testing (Figure 25). Lastly, Principals (44.5%, n=20) and SDs (50% , n=7) in Region 1 more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they received adequate funding COVID-19 vaccinations (Figure 26).

Figure 24: Region 1: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing by survey respondent

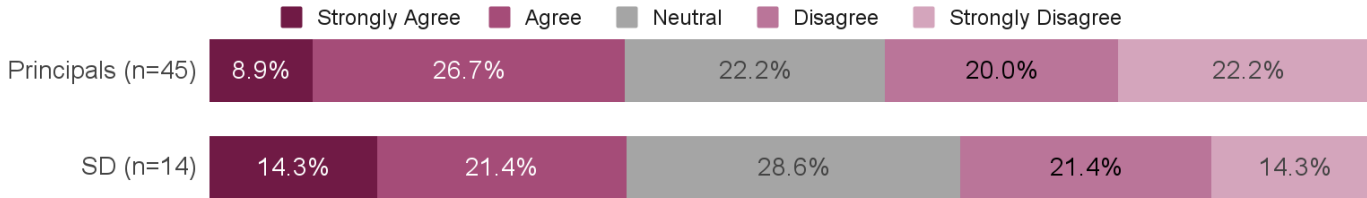
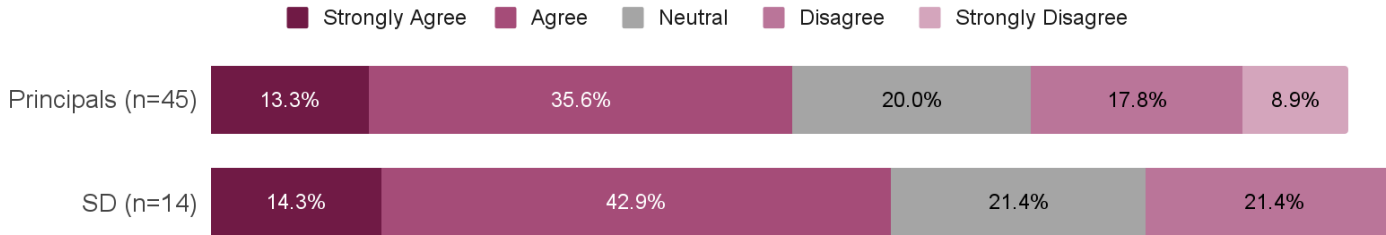
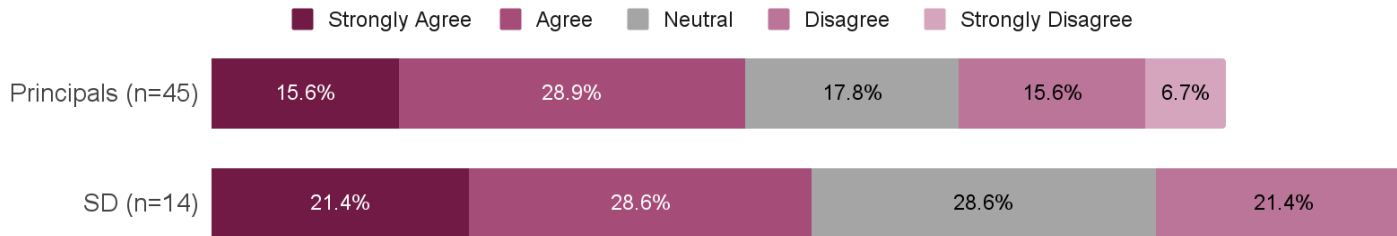


Figure 25: Region 1: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 testing by survey respondent*



* Not all rows will equal 100% since one of the response options to these questions, “My school did not engage in these activities”, was not included in the data visualization.

Figure 26: Region 1: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 vaccinations by survey respondent*

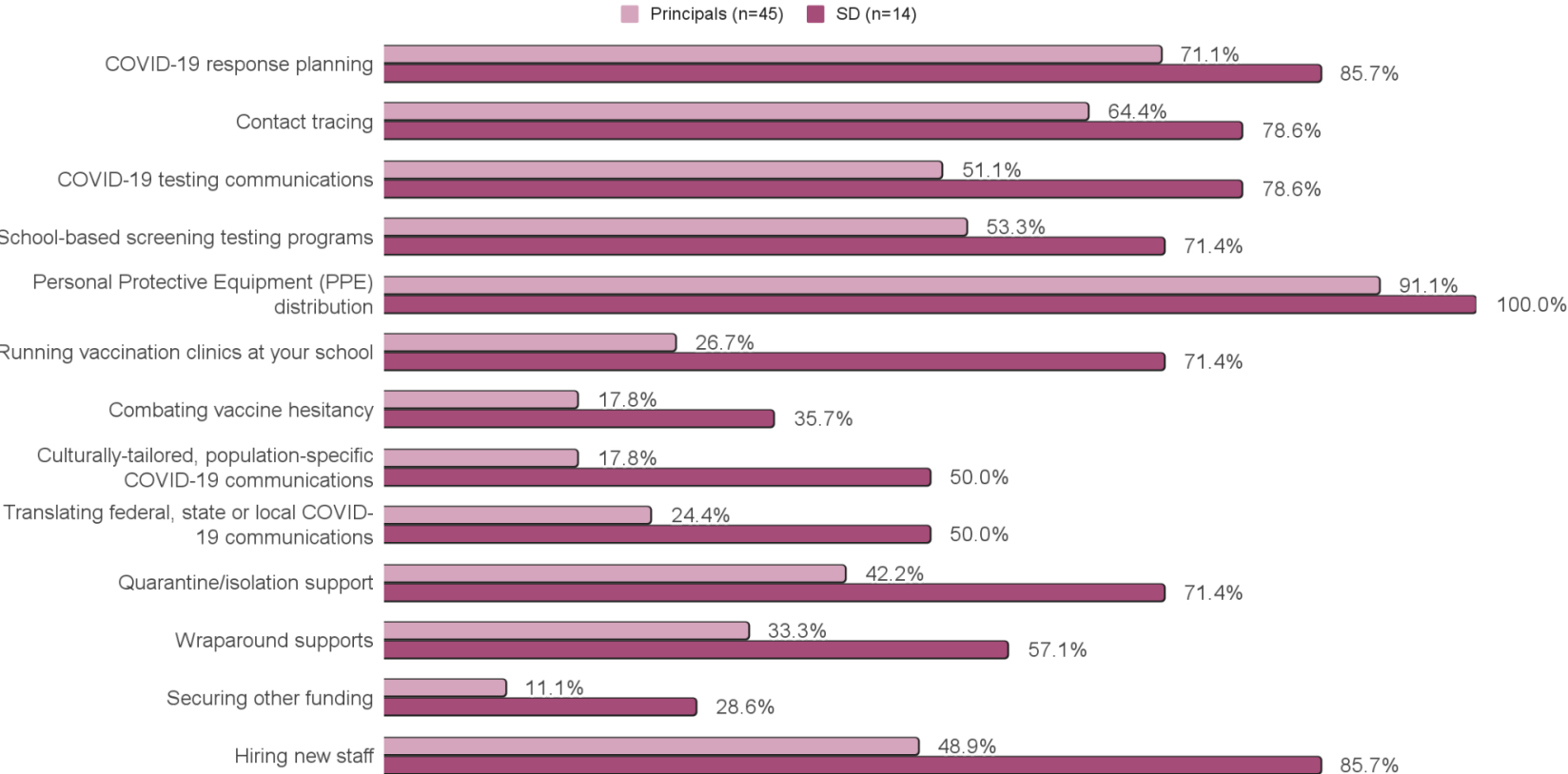


* Not all rows will equal 100% since one of the response options to these questions, “My school did not engage in these activities”, was not included in the data visualization.

Funded activities

Educational survey respondents in Region 1 were asked to report on a variety of activities they used for COVID-19 funding at their school or district. All SDs in Region 1 reported that they used COVID-19 funding on personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution (100%, n=14) and almost all Principals in Region 1 reported that they used funding on PPE distribution (91.1%, n=41) (Figure 27). SDs in Region 1 most frequently reported activities were PPE distribution (100%, n=14), COVID-19 response planning (85.7%, n=12) and hiring new staff (85.7%, n=12) were tied, and contact tracing (78.6%, n=11) and COVID-19 testing communications (78.6%, n=11) were tied. Principals in Region 1 most frequently reported activities were PPE distribution (91.1%, n=41), COVID-19 response planning (71.1%, n=32), contact tracing (64.4%, n=29), and school-based screening testing programs (53.3%, n=24).

Figure 27: Region 1: How COVID-19 funding was utilized by schools/districts by survey respondent



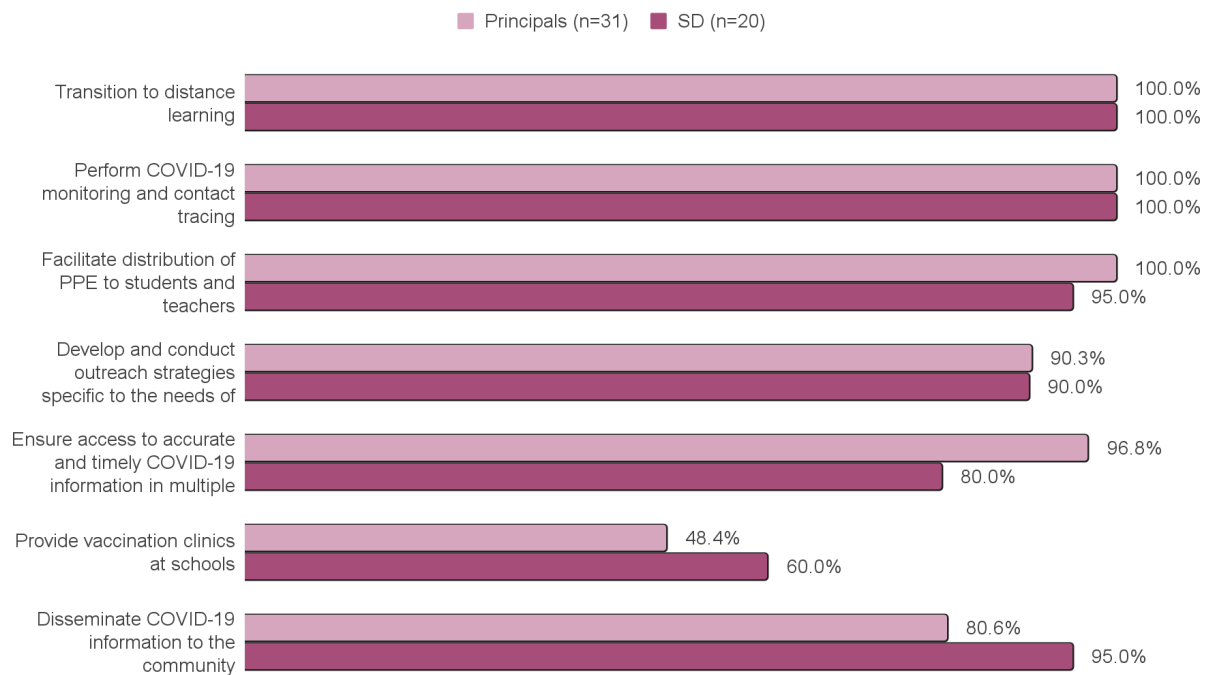
Region 2

COVID-19 Response Activities

Overall Response

Educational survey respondents in Region 2 shared ways that their school or district responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were similar percentages by survey respondent except for those that provided vaccination clinics at their schools. More than half of the SDs in Region 2 (60.0%, n=12) and slightly less than half of the Principals in Region 2 (48.4%, n=15) held vaccine clinics at their school (Figure 28).

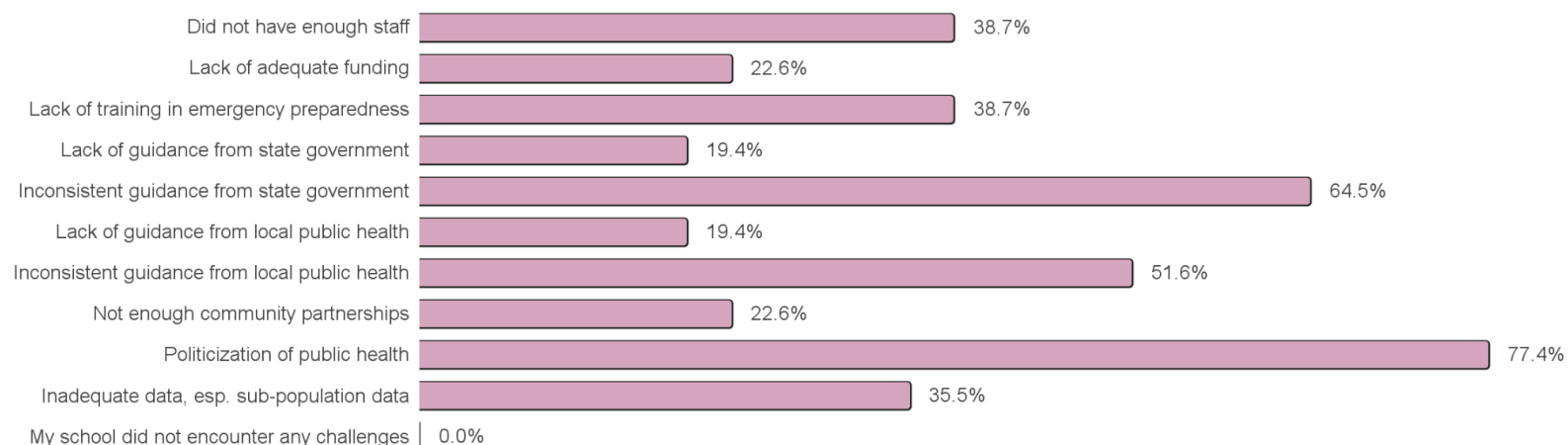
Figure 28: Region 2: Ways that schools/districts responded to COVID-19 pandemic by survey respondent



Challenges and Barriers to COVID-19 response

Principal survey respondents in Region 2 were asked to select the challenges that hindered the effectiveness, scale, or quality of their school’s COVID-19 pandemic response. The top three challenges Principals in Region 2 reported were politicization of public health (77.4%, n=24), inconsistent guidance from state government (64.5%, n=20), and did not have enough staff (38.7%, n=12) and lack of training in emergency preparedness (38.7%, n=12) were tied (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Region 2: Challenges that hindered COVID-19 pandemic response in schools by Principals (N=31)



Principal survey respondents in Region 2 were asked to select the barriers that their school experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. These barriers are not related to funding. The top barrier reported by Principals in Region 2 (38.7%, n=12) was difficulty onboarding new staff and the second top barrier was creating scripts for contact tracing (29.0%, n=9) (Figure 30).

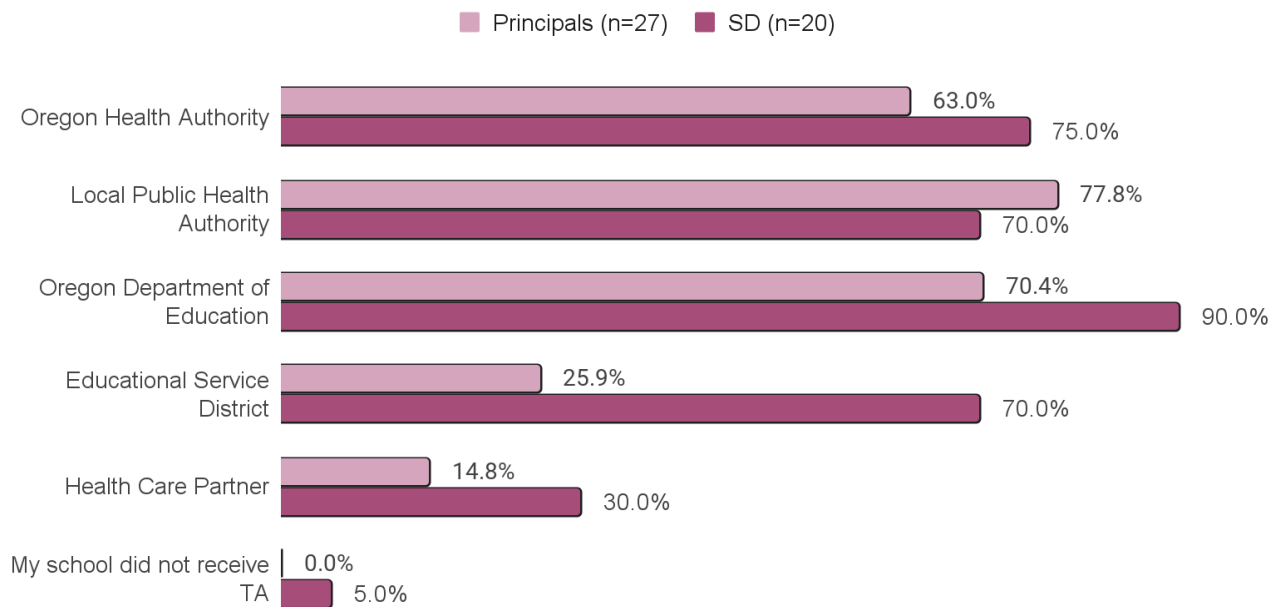
Figure 30: Region 2: Barriers not related to funding during COVID-19 pandemic response experienced by Principals (N=31)



Technical Assistance

Educational survey respondents in Region 2 were asked about the agencies or organizations in which their school or district received technical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The top three agencies or organizations that SDs in Region 2 received technical assistance from were the Oregon Department of Education (90.0%, n=18), the Oregon Health Authority (75.0%, n=15), and the Local Public Health Authority (70.0%, n=14) and the Educational Service District (70.0%, n=14) were tied (Figure 31). The top three agencies or organizations that Principals in Region 2 received technical assistance from were the Local Public Health Authority (77.8%, n=21), the Oregon Department of Education (70.4%, n=19), and the Oregon Health Authority (63.0%, n=17).

Figure 31: Region 2: Agencies schools received technical assistance from to support COVID-19 pandemic response by survey respondent



Funding

Adequate funding

Educational survey respondents were asked if they received adequate funding for a variety of COVID-19 response activities in their schools or districts; case investigation and contact tracing, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 vaccinations. All survey respondents reported that they did provide case investigation and contact tracing, one (1) Principal in Region 2 reported that they did not provide testing at their school, and six (6) Principals in Region 2 reported that they did not provide vaccinations at their school.

SDs in Region 2 (50.0%, n=9) and Principals in Region 2 (36.0%, n=15) more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they received adequate funding for case investigation and contact tracing (Figure 32). SDs (60.0%, n=12) and Principals (44.0%, n=11) in Region 2

more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they received adequate funding for COVID-19 testing (Figure 33). Lastly, SDs (60.0%, n=12) and Principals (32.0%, n=8) in Region 2 more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they received adequate funding COVID-19 vaccinations (Figure 34).

Figure 32: Region 2: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing by survey respondent

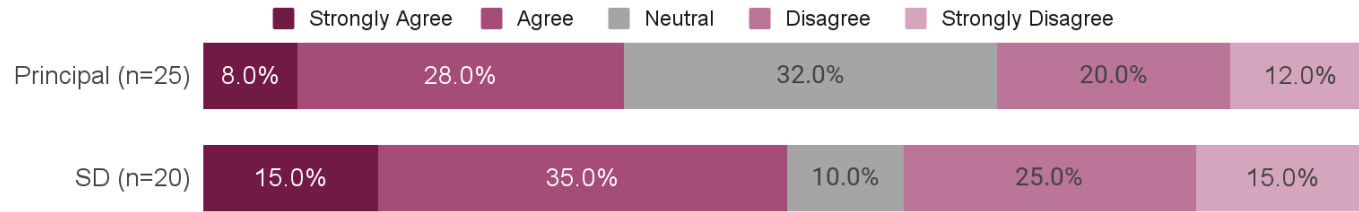
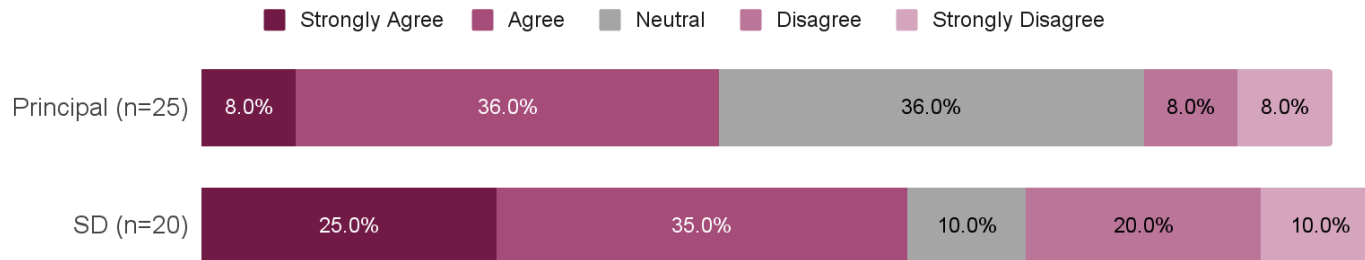
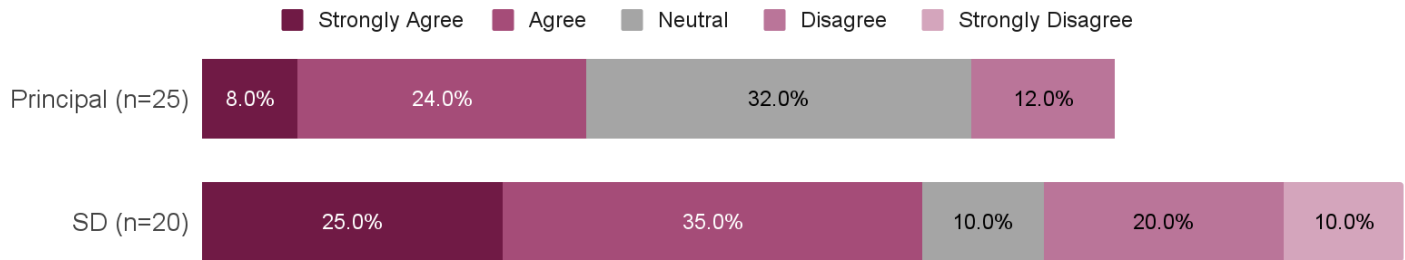


Figure 33: Region 2: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 testing by survey respondent*



* Not all rows will equal 100% since one of the response options to these questions, "My school did not engage in these activities", was not included in the data visualization.

Figure 34: Region 2: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 vaccinations by survey respondent*

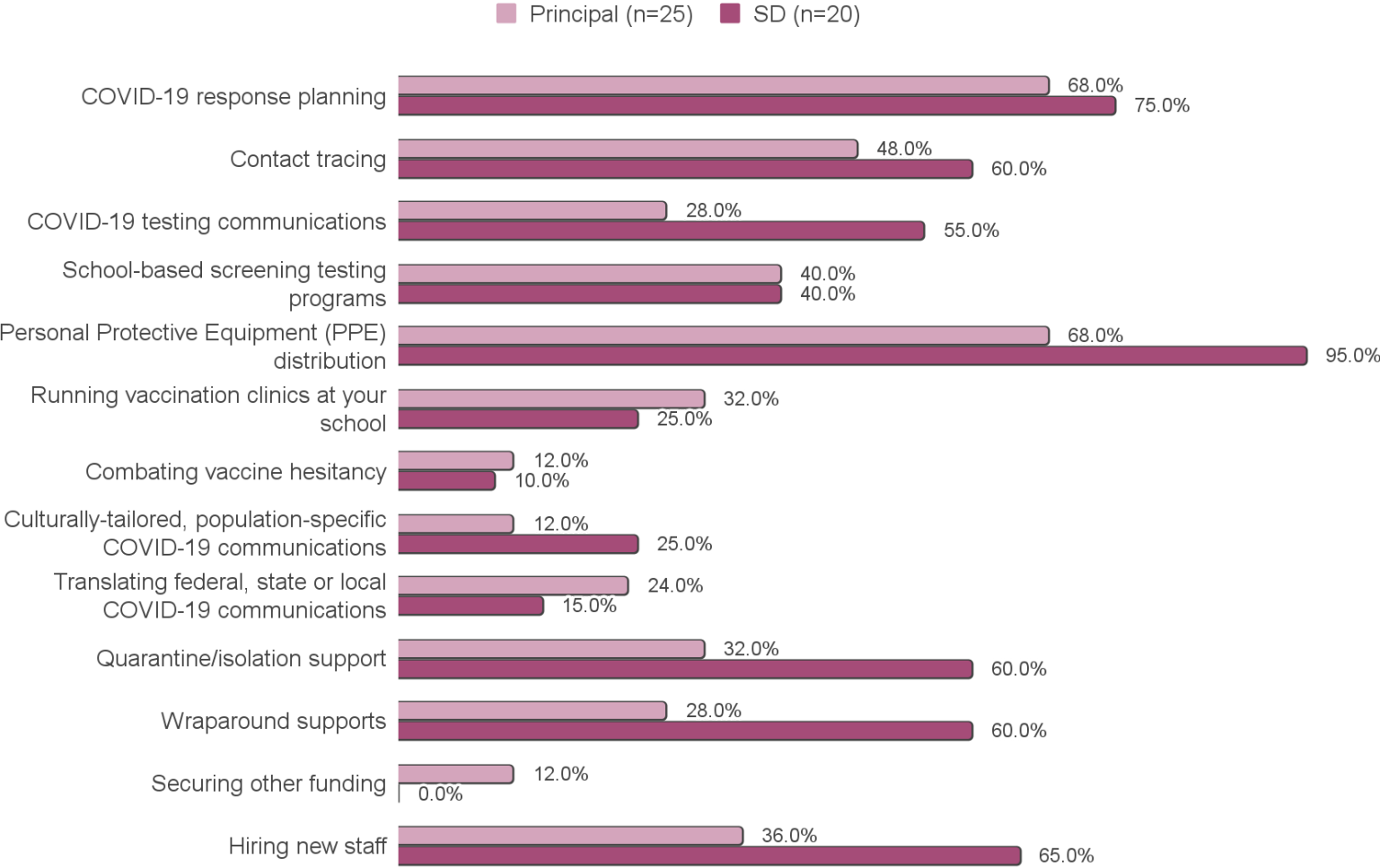


* Not all rows will equal 100% since one of the response options to these questions, “My school did not engage in these activities”, was not included in the data visualization.

Funded activities

Educational survey respondents in Region 2 were asked to report on a variety of activities they used for COVID-19 funding at their school or district. SDs in Region 2 most frequently reported activities were PPE distribution (95.0%, n=19), COVID-19 response planning (75.0%, n=15), hiring new staff (65.0%, n=13), and a three-way tie between contact tracing, quarantine or isolation support, and wraparound supports (60.0%, n=12) (Figure 35). Principals in Region 2 most frequently reported activities were PPE distribution (68.0%, n=17) and COVID-19 response planning (68.0%, n=17) were tied, contact tracing (48.0%, n=12), and school-based screening testing programs (40.0%, n=10).

Figure 34: Region 2: How COVID-19 funding was utilized by schools/districts by survey respondent



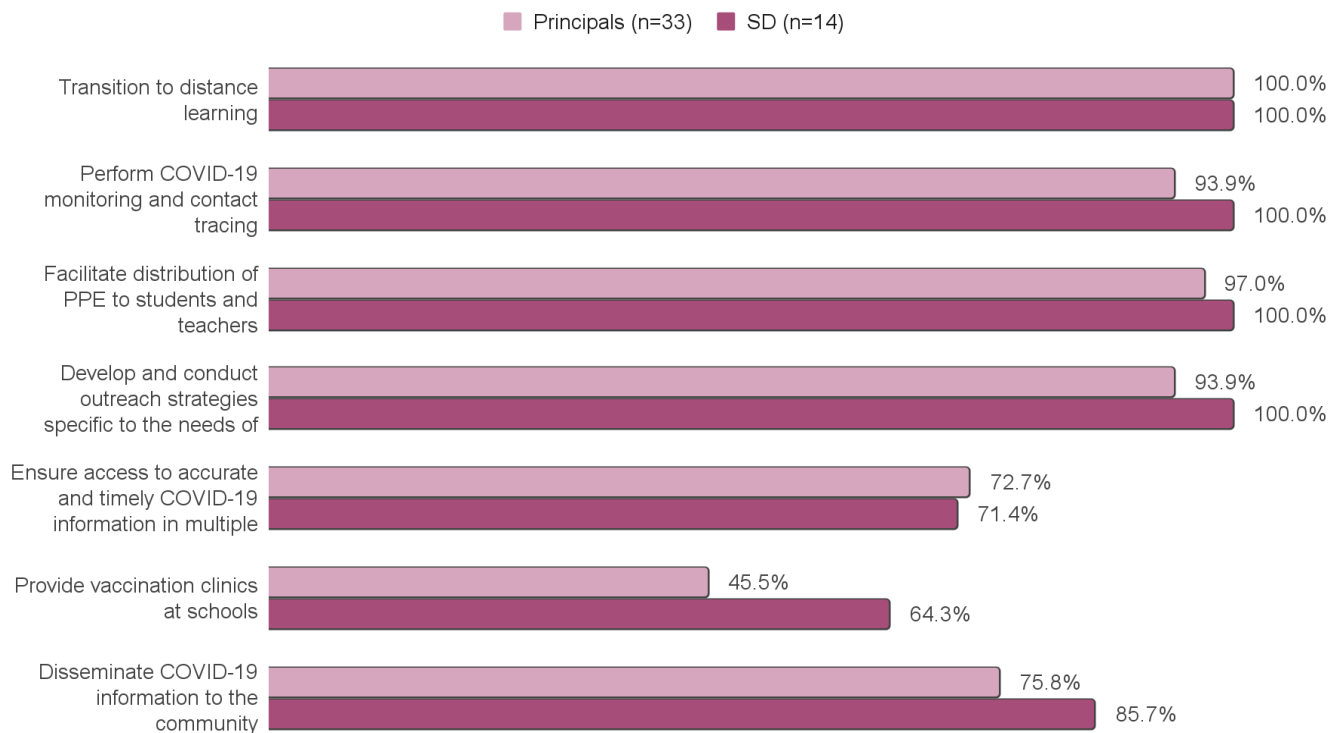
Region 3

COVID-19 Response Activities

Overall Response

Educational survey respondents in Region 3 shared ways that their school or district responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were similar percentages by survey respondent except for those that provided vaccination clinics at their schools. More than half of the SDs in Region 3 (64.3%, n=9) and less than half of the Principals in Region 3 (45.5%, n=15) held vaccine clinics at their school (Figure 35).

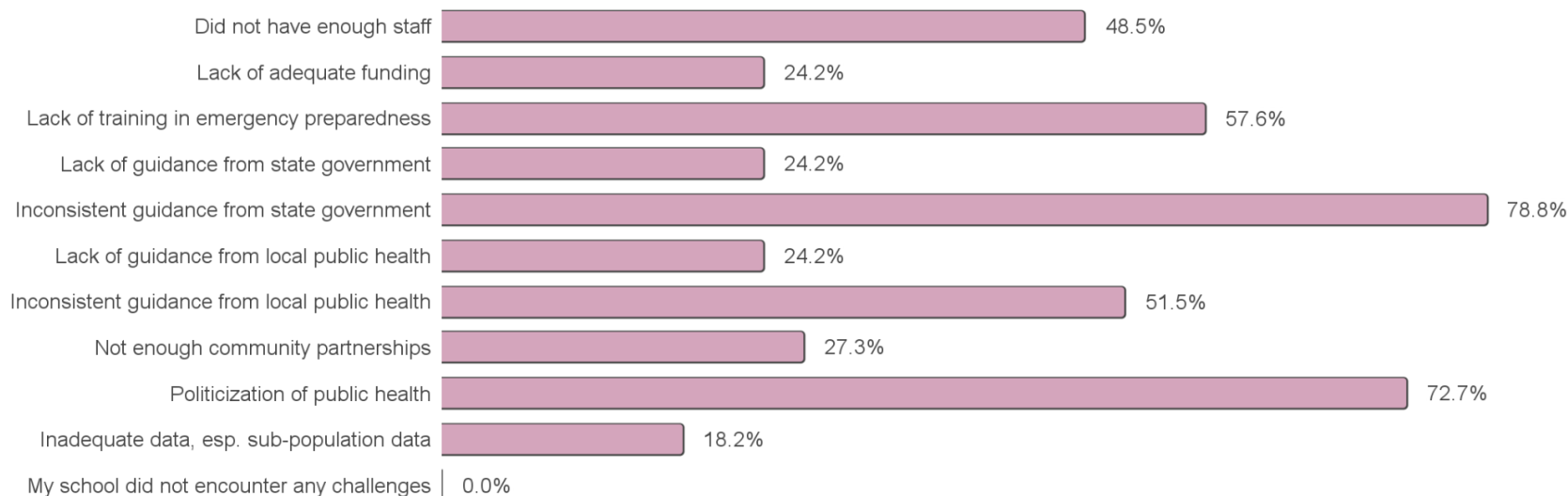
Figure 35: Region 3: Ways that schools/districts responded to COVID-19 pandemic by survey respondent



Challenges and Barriers to COVID-19 response

Principal survey respondents in Region 3 were asked to select the challenges that hindered the effectiveness, scale, or quality of their school’s COVID-19 pandemic response. The top three challenges Principals in Region 3 reported were inconsistent guidance from state government (78.8%, n=26), politicization of public health (72.7%, n=24), and lack of training in emergency preparedness (57.6%, n=19) (Figure 36).

Figure 34: Region 3: Challenges that hindered COVID-19 pandemic response in schools by Principals (N=33)



Principal survey respondents in Region 3 were asked to select the barriers that their school experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. These barriers are not related to funding. The top barrier reported by Principals in Region 3 (45.5%, n=15) was difficulty onboarding new staff and the second top barrier was creating scripts for contact tracing (42.4%, n=14) (Figure 37).

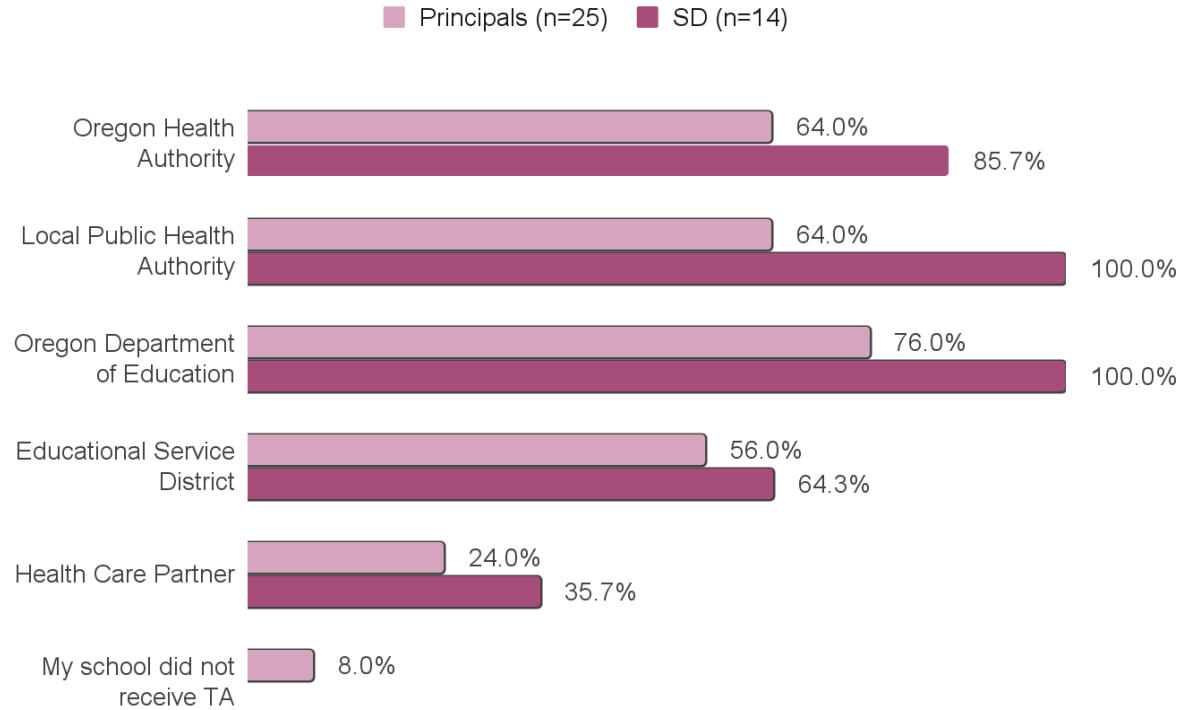
Figure 37: Region 3: Barriers not related to funding during COVID-19 pandemic response experienced by Principals (N=33)



Technical Assistance

Educational survey respondents in Region 3 were asked about the agencies or organizations in which their school or district received technical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The top three agencies or organizations that SDs in Region 3 received technical assistance from were the Local Public Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education (100.0%, n=14) were tied, the Oregon Health Authority (85.7%, n=12), and the Educational Service District (64.3%, n=9) (Figure 38). The top three agencies or organizations that Principals in Region 3 received technical assistance from were the Oregon Department of Education (76.0%, n=19), the Local Public Health Authority and the Oregon Health Authority (64.0%, n=16) were tied, and the Educational Service District (56.0%, n=14).

Figure 38: Region 3: Agencies schools received technical assistance from to support COVID-19 pandemic response by survey respondent



Funding

Adequate funding

Educational survey respondents in Region 3 were asked if they received adequate funding for a variety of COVID-19 response activities in their schools or districts; case investigation and contact tracing, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 vaccinations. All survey respondents reported that they did provide case investigation and contact tracing, all Principals in Region 3 reported that they did provide testing at their school, and two (2) Principles in Region 3 reported that they did not provide vaccinations at their school.

The same number of SDs in Region 3 reported that they agreed or strongly agreed and disagreed or strongly disagreed (35.7%, n=5) that they received adequate funding for case investigation and contact tracing Principals in Region 3 more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that (56.5%, n=9) (Figure 39). SDs (50.0%, n=7) and Principals (60.9%, n=14) in Region 3 more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they received adequate funding for COVID-19 testing (Figure 40). Lastly, SDs (50.0%, n=7) Principals (43.5%, n=10) in Region 3 more frequently reported to agree or strongly agree that they received adequate funding COVID-19 vaccinations (Figure 41).

Figure 39: Region 3: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing by survey respondent

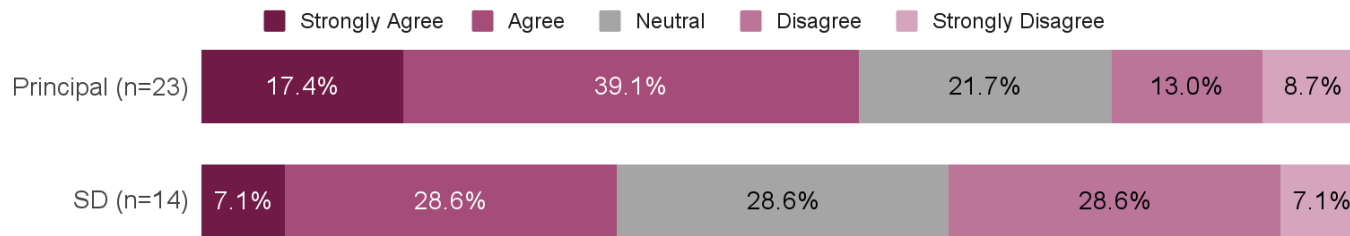


Figure 40: Region 3: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 testing by survey respondent

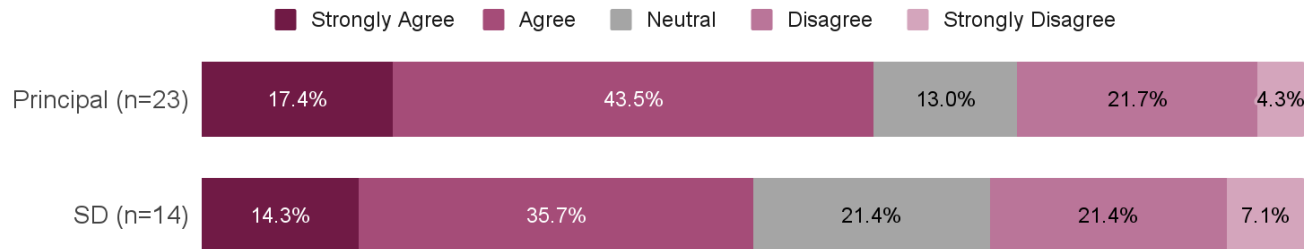
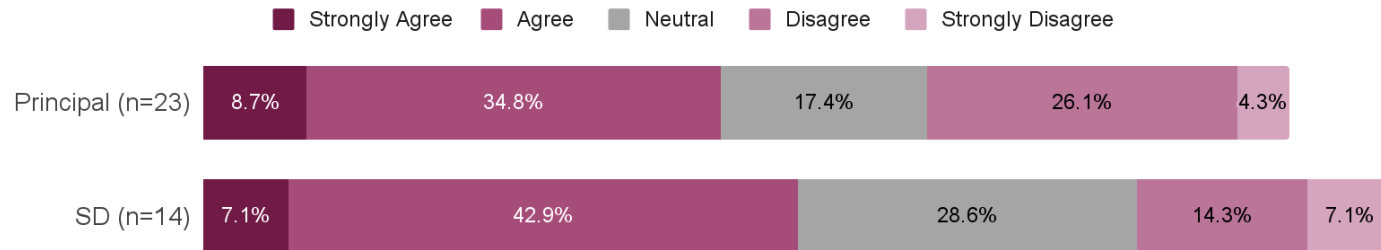


Figure 41: Region 3: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 vaccinations by survey respondent*

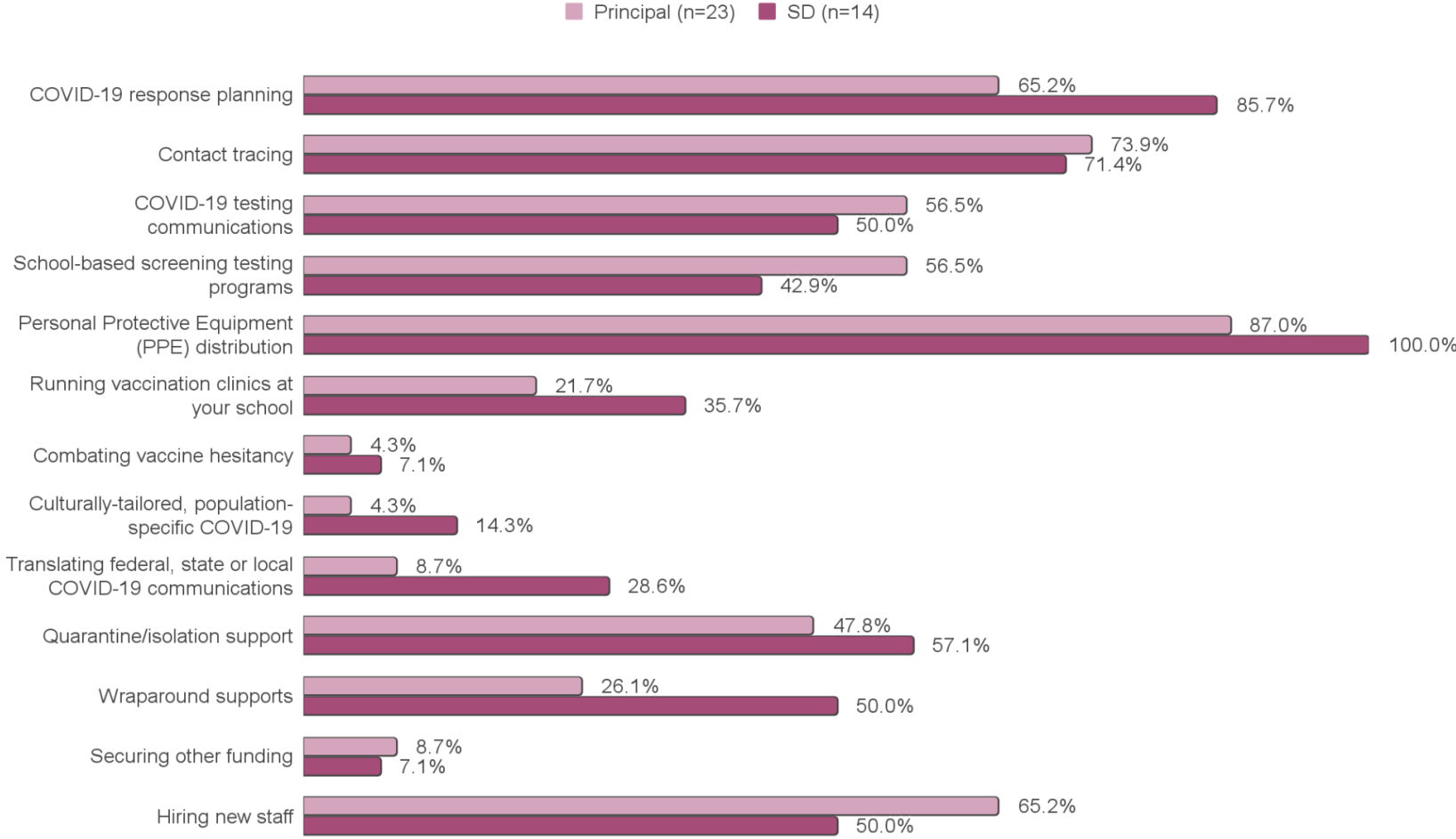


* Not all rows will equal 100% since one of the response options to these questions, “My school did not engage in these activities”, was not included in the data visualization.

Funding activities

Educational survey respondents in Region 3 were asked to report on a variety of activities they used for COVID-19 funding at their school or district. All SDs in Region 3 reported that they used COVID-19 funding on personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution (100%, n=14) and almost all Principals in Region 3 reported that they used funding on PPE distribution (87.0%, n=20) (Figure 42). SDs in Region 3 most frequently reported PPE distribution (100%, n=14), COVID-19 response planning (85.7%, n=12), contact tracing (71.4%, n=12), and quarantine or isolation support (57.1%, n=8). Principals in Region 3 most frequently reported PPE distribution (87.0%, n=20), contact tracing (73.9%, n=17), COVID-19 response planning (65.2%, n=15), and hiring new staff (65.2%, n=15).

Figure 42: Region 3: How COVID-19 funding was utilized by schools/districts, by survey respondent



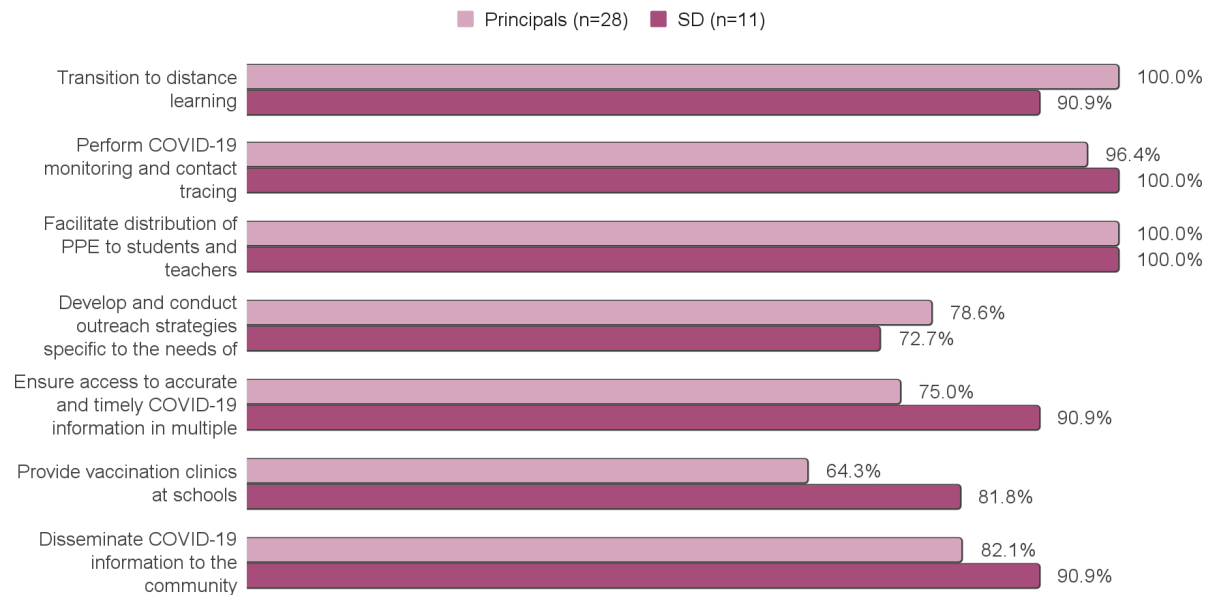
Region 4

COVID-19 Response Activities

Overall Response

Educational survey respondents in Region 4 shared ways that their school or district responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The top three activities SDs and Principals in Region 4 reported were distribution of PPE to students and teachers (100.0%, n=11), COVID-19 monitoring and contact tracing (100.0%, n=11) and transitioning to distance learning (90.9%, n=10) (Figure 43).

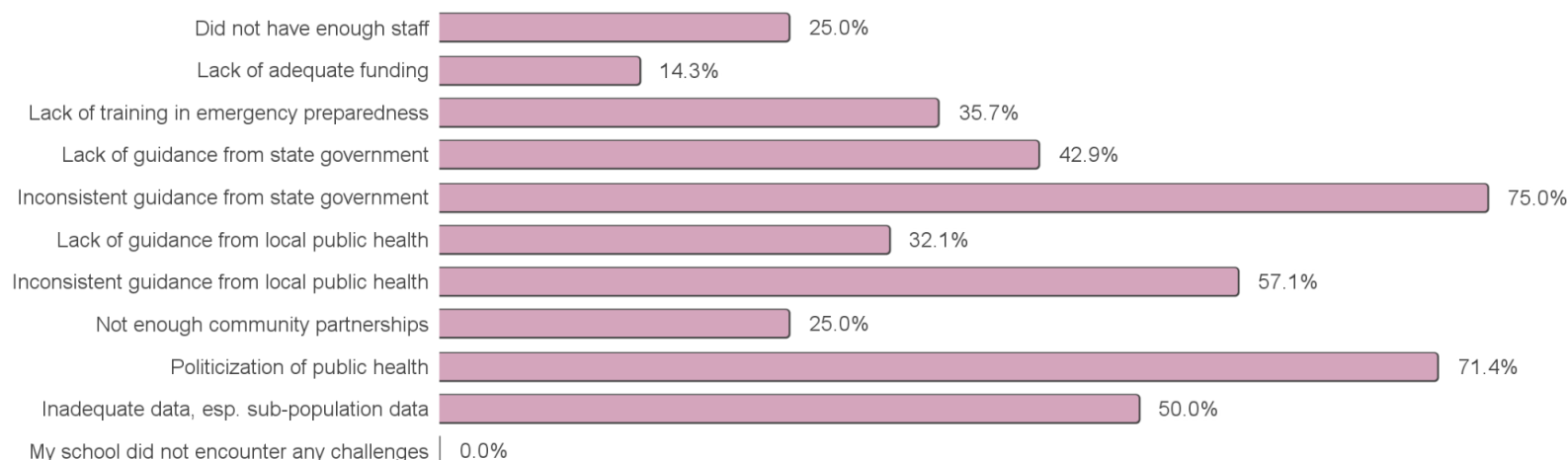
Figure 43: Region 4: Ways that schools/districts responded to COVID-19 pandemic by survey respondent



Challenges and Barriers to COVID-19 response

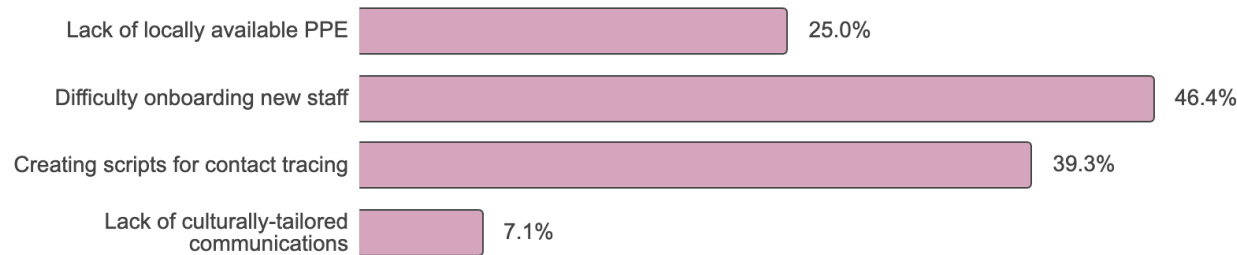
Principal survey respondents in Region 4 were asked to select the challenges that hindered the effectiveness, scale, or quality of their school’s COVID-19 pandemic response. The top three challenges Principals in Region 4 reported were inconsistent guidance from state government (75.0%, n=21), politicization of public health (71.4%, n=20), and inconsistent guidance from local public health/county health department (57.1%, n=16) (Figure 44).

Figure 44: Region 4: Challenges that hindered COVID-19 pandemic response in schools by Principals (N=28)



Principal survey respondents in Region 4 were asked to select the barriers that their school experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. These barriers are not related to funding. The top barrier reported by Principals in Region 4 (46.4%, n=13) was difficulty onboarding new staff and the second top barrier was creating scripts for contact tracing (39.3%, n=11) (Figure 45).

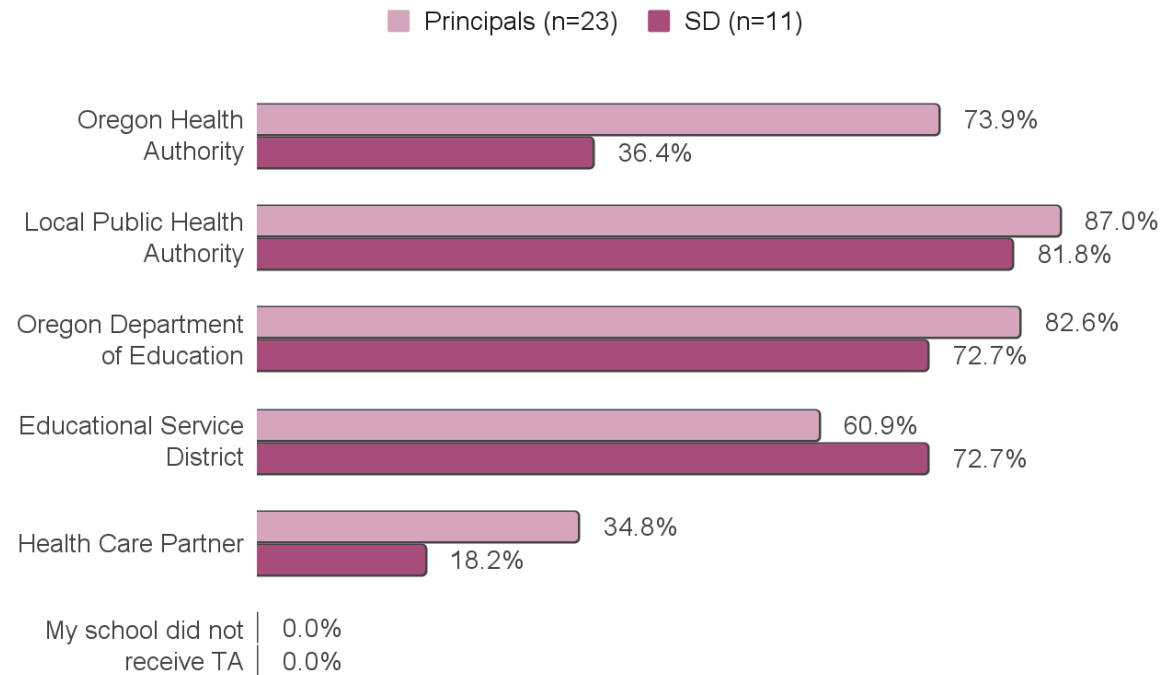
Figure 45: Region 4: Barriers not related to funding during COVID-19 pandemic response experienced by Principals (N=28)



Technical Assistance

Educational survey respondents in Region 4 were asked about the agencies or organizations in which their school or district received technical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The top three agencies or organizations that SDs in Region 4 received technical assistance from were the Local Public Health Authority (81.8%, n=9), the Oregon Department of Education and the Educational Service District (72.7%, n=8) were tied, and the Oregon Health Authority (36.4%, n=4) (Figure 46). The top three agencies or organizations that Principals in Region 4 received technical assistance from were the Local Public Health Authority (87.0%, n=20), the Oregon Department of Education (82.6%, n=19), and the Oregon Health Authority (73.9%, n=17).

Figure 46: Region 4: Agencies schools received technical assistance from to support COVID-19 pandemic response by survey respondent



Funding

Adequate funding

Educational survey respondents in Region 4 were asked if they received adequate funding for a variety of COVID-19 response activities in their schools or districts; case investigation and contact tracing, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 vaccinations. All survey respondents reported that they did provide case investigation and contact tracing, one (1) Principal in Region 4 reported that they did not provide testing at their school, and four (4) Principals in Region 4 reported that they did not provide vaccinations at their school.

Half of the SDs (n=5) and Principals (n=11) in Region 4 more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they received adequate funding for case investigation and contact tracing (Figure 47). SDs (50.0%, n=5) and Principals (50.0%, n=11) in Region 4 more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they received adequate funding for COVID-19 testing (Figure 48). Lastly, SDs (40.0%, n=4) and Principals (45.5%, n=10) in Region 4 more frequently agreed or strongly agreed that they received adequate funding COVID-19 vaccinations (Figure 49).

Figure 47: Region 4: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing by survey respondent

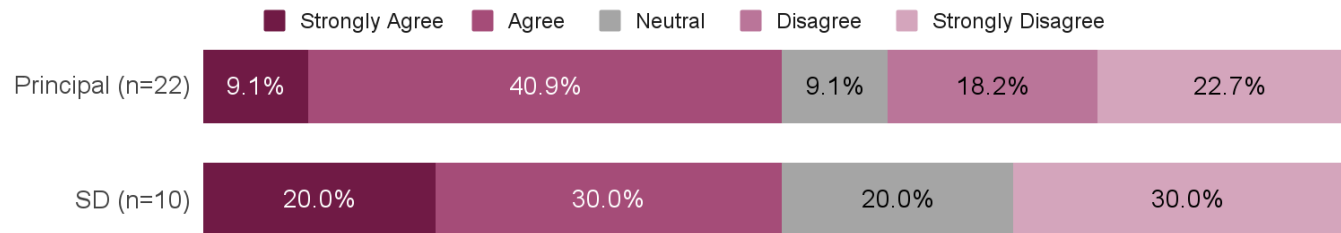
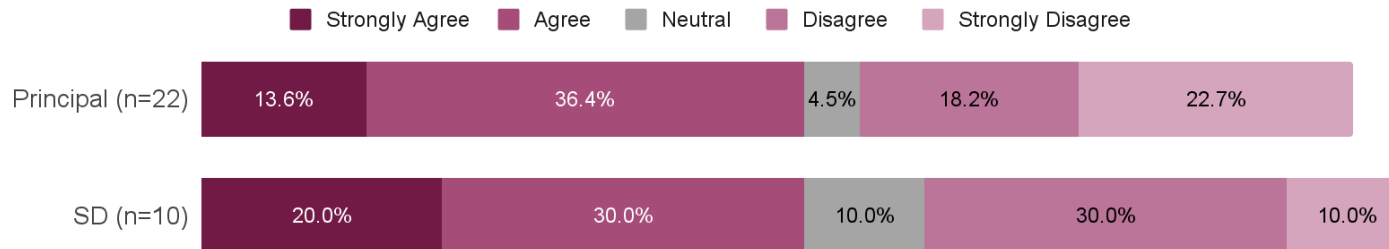
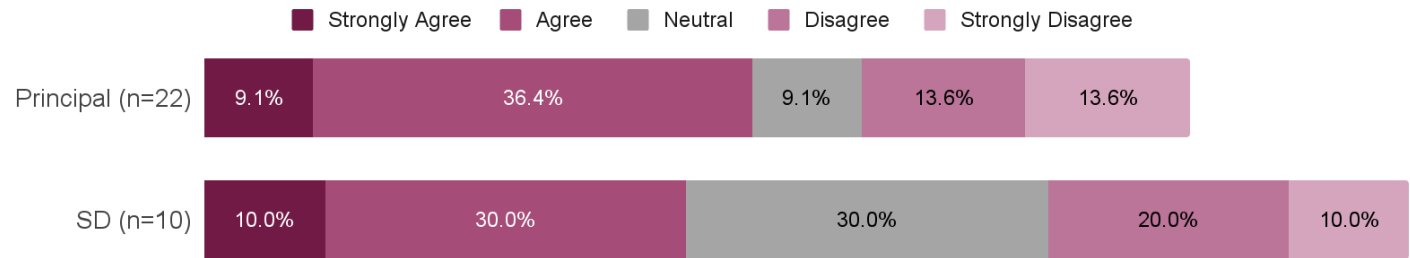


Figure 48: Region 4: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 testing by survey respondent*



* Not all rows will equal 100% since one of the response options to these questions, “My school did not engage in these activities”, was not included in the data visualization.

Figure 49: Region 4: School/district received adequate funding for COVID-19 vaccinations by survey respondent*

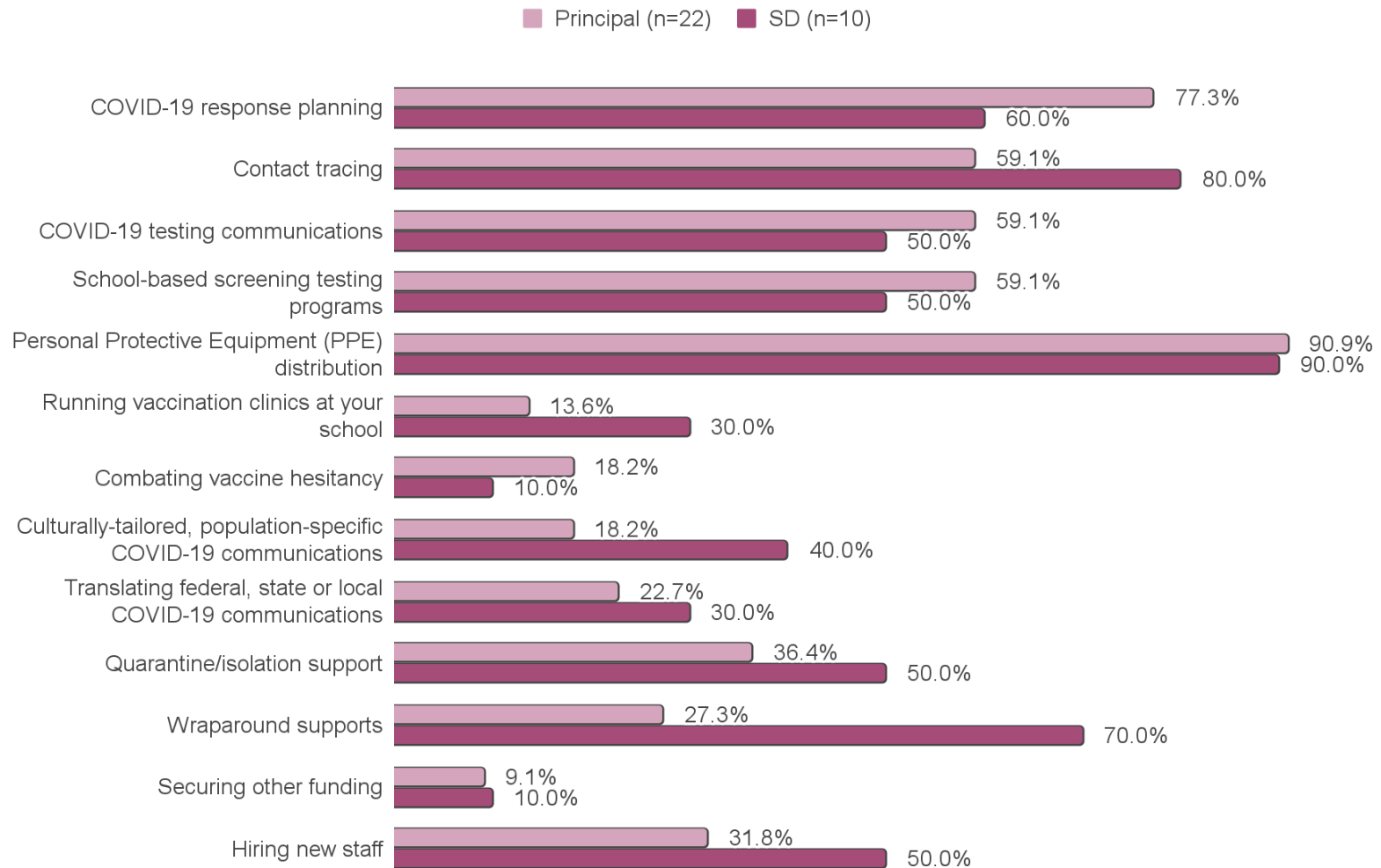


* Not all rows will equal 100% since one of the response options to these questions, “My school did not engage in these activities”, was not included in the data visualization.

Funded activities

Educational survey respondents in Region 4 were asked to report on a variety of activities they used for COVID-19 funding at their school or district. SDs in Region 4 most frequently reported using funding for PPE distribution (90.0%, n=9), contact tracing (80.0%, n=8), wraparound supports (70.0%, n=7), and COVID-19 response planning (60.0%, n=6) (Figure 50). Principals in Region 4 most frequently reported using funding for PPE distribution (90.9%, n=20), COVID-19 response planning (77.3%, n=17), contact tracing (59.1%, n=13), COVID-19 testing communications (59.1%, n=13), and school-based screening testing programs (59.1%, n=13).

Figure 50: Region 4: How COVID-19 funding was utilized by schools/districts by survey respondent



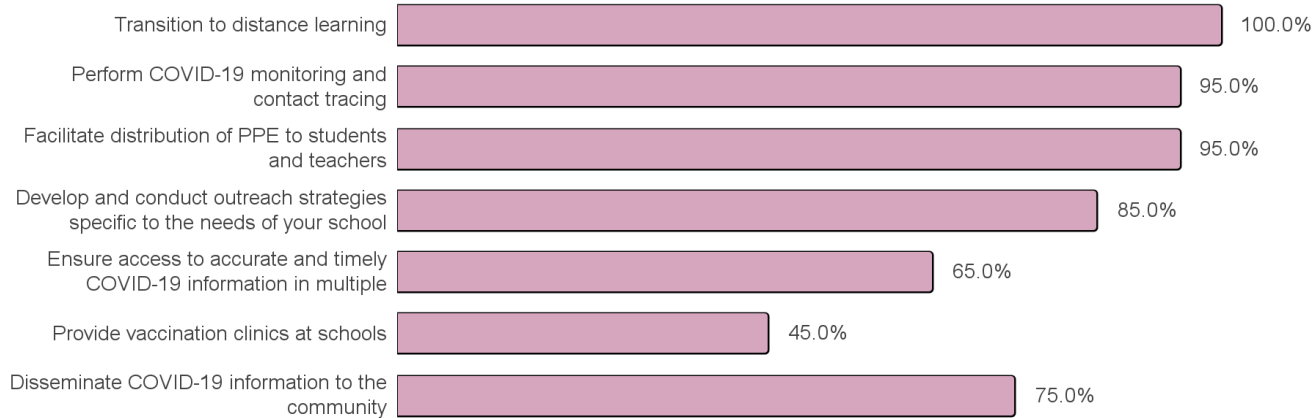
Region 5

COVID-19 Response Activities

Overall Response

Principal survey respondents in Region 5 shared ways that their school responded to the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 49). There were similar percentages by Principals except for those that provided vaccination clinics at their schools. Less than half of the Principals in Region 5 (45.0%, n=9) held vaccine clinics at their school (Figure 51).

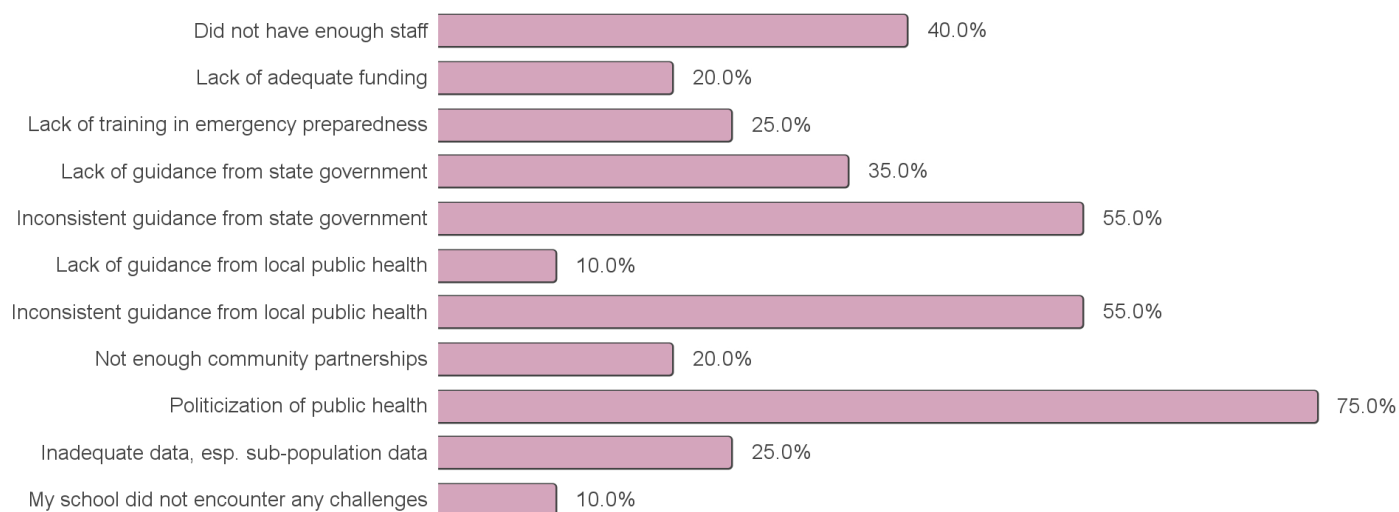
Figure 51: Region 5: Ways that schools responded to COVID-19 pandemic by Principals (N=20)



Challenges and Barriers to COVID-19 response

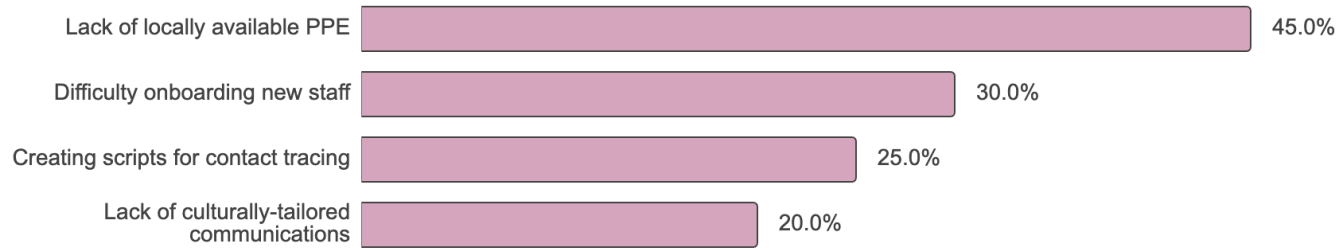
Principal survey respondents in Region 5 were asked to select the challenges that hindered the effectiveness, scale, or quality of their school's COVID-19 pandemic response. The top three challenges Principals in Region 5 reported were politicization of public health (75.0%, n=15), inconsistent guidance from state government and inconsistent guidance from local public health/county health department (55.0%, n=11), and did not have enough staff (40.0%, n=8) (Figure 52).

Figure 52: Region 5: Challenges that hindered COVID-19 pandemic response in schools by Principals (N=20)



Principal survey respondents in Region 5 were asked to select the barriers that their school experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. These barriers are not related to funding. The top barrier reported by Principals in Region 5 (45.0%, n=9) was lack of locally available PPE and the second top barrier was difficulty onboarding new staff (30.0%, n=6) (Figure 53).

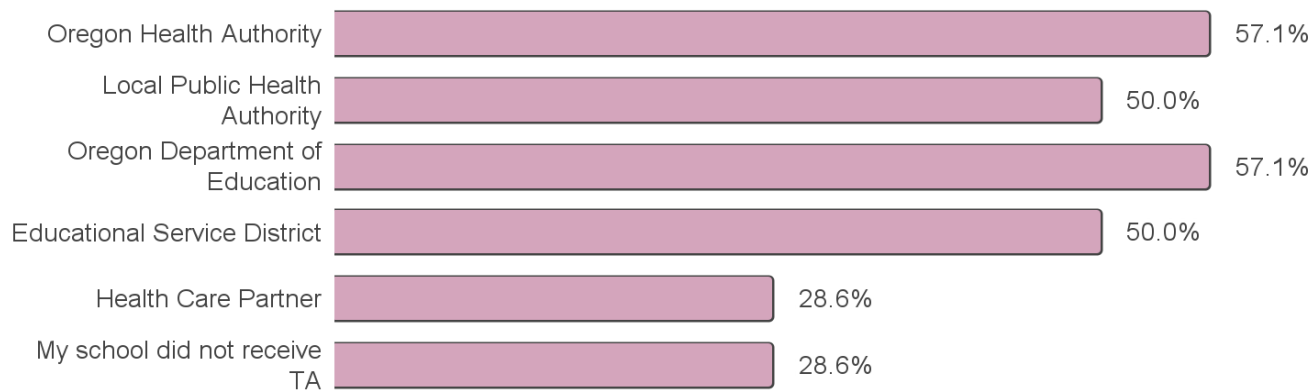
Figure 53: Region 5: Barriers not related to funding during COVID-19 pandemic response experienced by Principals (N=20)



Technical Assistance

Principal survey respondents in Region 5 were asked about the agencies or organizations in which their school received technical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The top three agencies or organizations that Principals in Region 5 received technical assistance from were the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority (57.1%, n=8) were tied, the Local Public Health Authority and Educational Service District (50.0%, n=7) were tied, and the Health Care Partner and not receiving technical assistance (28.6%, n=4) were tied (Figure 54).

Figure 54: Region 5: Agencies schools received technical assistance from to support COVID-19 pandemic response by Principals (N=14)



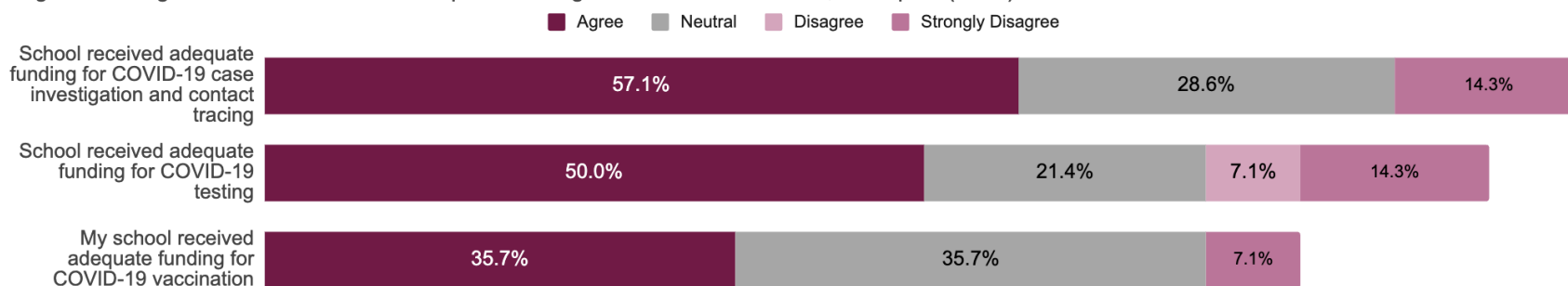
Funding

Adequate funding

Principal survey respondents in Region 5 were asked if they received adequate funding for a variety of COVID-19 response activities in their schools; case investigation and contact tracing, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 vaccinations. All survey respondents reported that they did provide case investigation and contact tracing, one (1) Principal in Region 5 reported that they did not provide testing at their school, and three (3) Principals in Region 5 reported that they did not provide vaccinations at their school.

More than half of the Principals in Region 5 more frequently agreed that they received adequate funding for case investigation and contact tracing (57.1%, n=8) (Figure 55). Half of the Principals (n=7) in Region 5 more frequently agreed that they received adequate funding for COVID-19 testing. Lastly, the same number of Principals in Region 5 agreed or were neutral in receiving adequate funding for COVID-19 vaccinations (35.7%, n=5).

Figure 55: Region 5: School received adequate funding for COVID-19 activities, Principals (n=14)



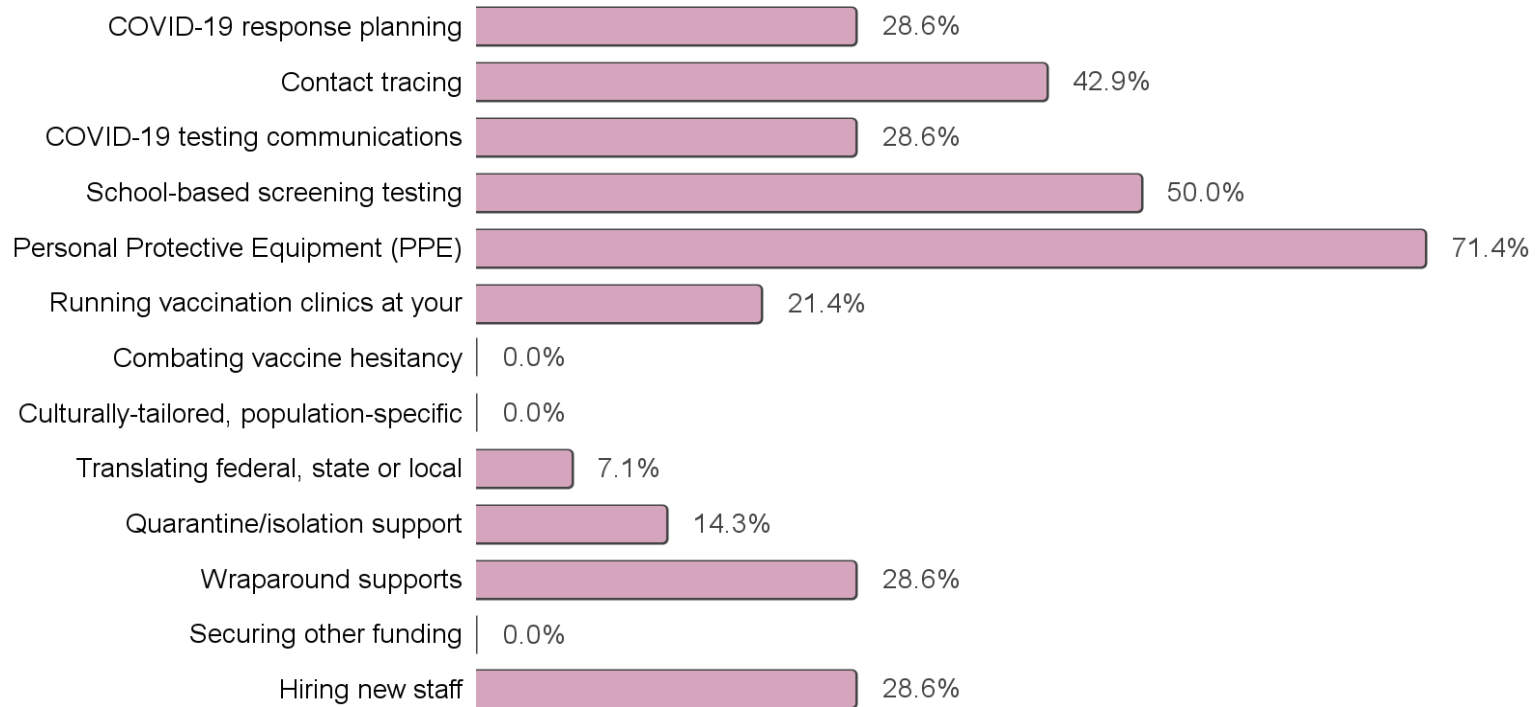
* Not all rows will equal 100% since one of the response options to these questions, "My school did not engage in these activities", was not included in the data visualization.

Funded activities

Principal survey respondents in Region 5 were asked to report on a variety of activities they used for COVID-19 funding at their school. Principals in Region 5 top four activities were PPE distribution (71.4%, n=10), school-based screening testing programs

(50.0%, n=11), contact tracing (42.9%, n=6), and a four-way tie between COVID-19 response planning, COVID-19 testing communications, wraparound supports, and hiring new staff (28.6%, n=4) (Figure 56).

Figure 56: Region 5: How COVID-19 funding was utilized in schools by Principals (N=14)



Key Findings

1. Preparedness to respond to pandemic varied across Regions with most SDs reporting their district was more prepared to respond than Principals reported.
2. There was variation in the existence of EOPs across Regions, although most Principals, regardless of Region, reported their school developed an EOP after the start of the pandemic.
3. Across Regions, SDs reported being more prepared to transition to distance learning than Principals reported, as the majority of Principals felt their school was minimally or not at all prepared to transition to distance learning.
4. SDs and Principals reported they tried their best to adhere to Executive Orders and health mandates and used an array of enforcement methods, including behavior modeling, clear messaging, and punitive consequences across regions.
5. Region 5 Principals least frequently reported adopting specific COVID-19 public health policies compared to other Regions.
6. Although there was variation across Region in effectiveness of strategies to enforce public health protections in schools, punitive consequences was the least effective strategy reported by Principals in each Region.
7. Across all regions, SDs more frequently reported their district had adequate funding for COVID-19 response activities than Principals.
8. There was variability in TA received across Regions, with Region 5 having the largest percentage of Principals who reported their school did not receive any TA to support pandemic response.
9. Substantial variability in barriers to efficient use of funds was seen across Regions.
10. Reporting and spending requirements were most frequently reported by barriers as SDs (across most Regions).
11. Education sector study participants reported numerous successes with COVID-19 public health messaging and communication, including creating clear messaging (e.g., meetings, signage, exposure letters) and translation of materials across multiple languages.

Recommendations

1. Build out and invest in comprehensive emergency preparedness for schools at the district- and school-level to incorporate pandemic-level events, training for school administrators, and frequent EOP updates that are tailored to take into account the unique needs of each school community.
 - a. Newer administrators, as well as schools and districts who do not have as many emergency preparedness resources, may need additional resources to ensure they are fully prepared to respond to future public health emergencies.
2. Ensure technical assistance availability at both the district- and school-level, data availability at district and local levels that includes sub-population data and corresponding TA; a designated liaison at LPHAs to coordinate data availability and provide TA for each district would ensure greater availability and accessibility of TA to inform response for future public health emergencies.
3. Ensure adequate resources for contact tracing and case investigation at the school-level; different schools may require additional resources for these specific efforts.
4. Consider public health mandates and associated guidance for future public health emergencies that are flexible to allow for local school authority and decision-making regarding school closures.
5. Similarly, when enforcing public health mandates, allow decisions about enforcement strategies to be made at the school level to utilize appropriate strategies tailored for the school population(s) served.